



University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council

MINUTES

Tuesday 5th November 2013 – Committee Room, 7.00pm

Present

Sophie Kelly	Arts/Divinity Senate Representative
Maxwell Baldi	Association Chair
Katie O'Donnell	Association Community Relations Officer
Daniel Palmer	Association Director of Events and Services
Edward Woodhouse	Association Director of Representation
Dominyka Urbonaite	Association Environment & Ethics Officer
David Norris	Association LGBT Officer
Scott Schorr	Association Postgraduate President
Chloe Hill	Association President
Iain Cupples	Education Researcher
Scott Taylor	SRC Accommodation Officer
Ondrej Hajda	SRC Education Officer
Hibak Yusuf Mohamud	SRC Equal Opportunities Officer
Lonie Sebahg	SRC Employability Officer
Callum Bryce	SRC External Campaigns Officer
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
Avalon Borg	SRC Wellbeing Officer

In Attendance

Keith Cordrey	Student Services Council
Caroline Magee	<i>The Saint</i>
Michael Telfer	Minutes Secretary

Absent

Kelsey Gold	Association Director of Student Development & Activities
Jess Walker	President of the Athletic Union
Pat Mathewson	Rector's Assessor
Peter DaBell	Science/Medicine Senate Representative
Soraya Walli	SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities
Joshua Carlton	SRC Member for First Year
Ali West	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Ross Quinn	SRC Member for Mature Students
Fay Morrice	SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
Ben Anderson	SRC Member for Widening Access

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without dissent.

2. Apologies for Absence

Kelsey Gold	Association Director of Student Development & Activities
Pat Mathewson	Rector's Assessor
Peter DaBell	Science/Medicine Senate Representative
Soraya Walli	SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities
Joshua Carlton	SRC Member for First Year
Ali West	SRC Member for Gender Equality
Fay Morrice	SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
Ben Anderson	SRC Member for Widening Access

The apologies were accepted without dissent.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Pursuant to Standing Orders §7.2.2, the minutes of the Joint Meeting on the 22nd of October 2013 were laid before the members of the Council on the 30th of October 2013. With no objections registered within 24 hours, the minutes were considered adopted by electronic mail.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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 informed the Council that Raisin Weekend had taken place and that, though the numbers hadn't been compiled, it appeared to have gone well. Ms Hill thanked Ms Borg and all of the other Members for their help during the weekend. Ms Hill relayed the thanks of Student Services to those who had volunteered. Ms Hill stated that Raisin had occupied the majority of the Sabbatical Officers lives and that she had never been so stressed in her life.

Ms Hill informed the Council that on the coming Thursday she would have a meeting of the University Court's Governance and Nominations Committee, SAB Finance Committee, and then a SAB meeting. Ms Hill stated that Mr Palmer would also have a staffing meeting that day.

Ms Hill informed the Council that the University Staff had went on Strike the previous Thursday. Ms Hill stated that the staff had been thankful for the support of the Students' Representative Council and students.

Ms Hill informed the Council that the Student Services Council had been consulted on the rebranding and redevelopment of the Association. Ms Hill stated that she was looking to find time in the

Students' Representative Council's schedule to consult with them. Ms Hill stated that both the Student Services Council and Students' Representative Council were perfect consultation bodies for this due to their knowledge of the Association, its requirements, and operating procedures.

Ms Hill informed the Council that Scottish Government funding of the University was tied to outcome agreements. Ms Hill stated that an interesting outcome agreement for the Students' Representative Council was the one that concerned widening access and accessibility. Ms Hill stated that the University had set the lowest target the previous year and had exceeded it, largely thanks to the work of the widening access team. Ms Hill stated that she, Mr Anderson, and Mr Woodhouse would be meeting with the University's admission office to discuss the coming year's admissions policy.

Ms Hill informed the Council that she had meetings planned with RBS to discuss hall rents, and how much they would go up, as well as rental subsidies. Ms Hill stated that she was pushing RBS to take in to account the changes in student loans. Ms Hill stated that Fife Park and Albany Park were currently subsidised and they were currently discussing how to ensure they reached the correct people by instead subsidising rent regardless of hall. Ms Hill stated that RBS had so far being looked on this policy favourable and they could understand the benefits.

Ms Hill informed the Council that Mr Woodhouse, Ms Mohamud, and Ms Rhoads have been working on the international students campaign. Ms Hill requested that the members think of suggestions for the campaign's name. Ms Hill stated that the campaign was in opposition to two sections of the immigration bill: NHS restrictions, and the requirement for landlords to carry out visa checks. Ms Hill stated that the two policies were quite separate issues and so a name had been difficult to come up with. Ms Hill stated that a video was being produced highlighting the benefits of international students and that she and Ms Rhoads would be producing a report on the benefits of international students, incorporating parts of the University's own report. Ms Hill stated that the campaign would be launched in two weeks. Ms Hill stated that part of the campaign would include having students send postcards to their embassies, asking them to do everything to oppose the policy. Ms Hill stated that the postcards would have an I Love St Andrews picture on the front. Ms Hill stated that that aspect would be more interesting than the petition writing. Ms Hill requested that the name suggestions be positive rather than negative and not be something like the 'Anti-Immigration Bill Campaign'.

Ms Hill informed the Council that the Sabbatical Officers had a radio show every Friday which they were having difficult with. Ms Hill stated that Ms Gold had to attend the Societies' Surgery at the same time and so couldn't take part and that every week at least one other sabbatical officer had been absent. Ms Hill stated that if any of the members wished to take part and chat about their projects and events, the show was a great time for them to do that.

Ms Mohamud stated that she could attend on the coming Friday.

Ms Kelly asked what time the show was on.

Ms Hill answered that it was every Friday, 4pm to 5pm.

Ms Mohamud asked if the international students campaign's video could be discussed on the show.

Ms Hill answered that it could. Ms Hill stated that the show was a great opportunity to talk about that, as the listenership was quite good.

Mr Hajda asked what the record was for listenership.

Ms Hill answered that it was around 35 to 40 people.

Ms Cunningham stated that the other members of the council should use the BuzzBox to send in suggestions.

Ms Cunningham suggested that 'Internationally Scottish' might be a good name for the Campaign as it played off the University's own tagline.

Ms Mohamud suggested that a Facebook poll could be held to pick the Campaign's name.

Ms Hill stated that was possible.

Ms Mohamud stated that, in relation to the campaign as a whole, she was going to summarise the video so that everyone know the message of the video.

6.2. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services

Mr Palmer informed the Council that redevelopment was occupying a large amount of the Sabbatical Officers time and that the Student Services Council had been consulted on the rebranding of the Union. Mr Palmer stated that most societies would get what they wanted. Mr Palmer requested that the members tell the Sabbatical Officers if they were struggling. Mr Palmer stated they things were still running quite well despite the difficulties.

Mr Palmer thanked the members for their help on Raisin Monday. Mr Palmer stated that Student Services were pleased.

Mr Palmer informed the Council that this week would have been Reading week. Mr Palmer suggested that, though the Students' Representative Council was less meeting intensive than the Student Services Council, they should try to minimise their meeting schedule and only focus on the basics. Mr Palmer stated that was why there was coffee, to keep the meetings calmer.

Ms Hill stated that if the members wanted coffee they should let the Sabbatical Officers know and they could have it provided.

Mr Palmer informed the Council that subcommittees could now start to book rooms for semester 2. Mr Palmer requested that members who were having difficulties with the room bookings should speak to him or Ms Gold.

Mr Palmer informed the Council that he was working to keep the website fresh. Mr Palmer stated that as Rachel was off, he was working on that. Mr Palmer stated that member's with edit rights do it themselves or send it to him. Mr Palmer stated that members could submit news articles.

Ms Cunningham asked if there was a new timeline for the redevelopment.

Ms Hill stated that she would provide one at the end of the meeting.

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

Mr Baldi read a report from Ms Gold stating that: Ms Gold thanked the members for their work cleaning up after the raisin foam fight; Ms Gold was working on the refreshers fayre; Ms Gold was working with the Ré committee on their future; the Charities campaign's launch week would be during the next week; Mermaid's shows were going well; UDS weekly debates were going well; Volunteering were looking at holding more one-of projects, such as for the environment; and the societies committee had given out over £6,000 during the year.

Mr Baldi recommend that those members of the Council with questions for Ms Gold email them to her.

Mr Palmer stated that he was in control of Ré's cameras.

6.4. Report of the Association Director of Representation

Mr Woodhouse thanked those members who helped put together the popular Raisin kits. Mr Woodhouse stated that he would be advising his successor to place more emphasis on them next year.

Mr Woodhouse informed the Council that he had had a productive meeting with the University about a break during the first semester. Mr Woodhouse stated that the general consensus was that one was wanted and the question now was how to make it happen.

Mr Woodhouse informed the Council that the last round of Class Representatives expansion packs had been complete meaning there were now lots of trained advocates throughout the University.

Mr Woodhouse informed the Council that on Friday, at 4pm, the Student Library User Group was meeting. The senior management at the library would be meeting with student representatives, enabling them to reveal any new projects and get student feedback.

Mr Woodhouse informed the Council that next Monday would see the last School President's forum of the year. Mr Woodhouse stated that the forum would be discussing ways to reduce paper waste in exams, such as with the large books used for essays, and at producing draft module handbooks for pre-advising students.

Mr Woodhouse informed the Council that he was looking at ways to standardise the learning and teaching committee absence policy.

Mr Woodhouse informed the Council that he was be visiting Glasgow University to participate in training for their Enhancement-led Institutional Review.

7. Reports of Officers

7.1. Report of the Arts/Divinity Senate Representative

Ms Kelly informed the Council that the Education Committee had met on the previous Friday.

Ms Kelly informed the Council that a meeting was organised so that the relevant members could prepare in advance of the next Senate meeting.

7.2. Report of the Association Community Relations Officer

Ms O'Donnell informed the Council that she was put in touch with the people organising the Keep Cups campaign and that she was working on making it a town-wide initiative. Ms O'Donnell stated that they were working on the prototype, after which it would be rolled out to the cafés around campus. After it was rolled out, Ms O'Donnell stated that they would approach the cafés around town to see if they'd be interested in participating.

Ms O'Donnell informed the Council that On the Rocks had approached her about including local people, especially school children, in the festival.

Ms Hill apologised to Ms O'Donnell about the Community Council meeting the previous night.

Ms O'Donnell stated that it was horrific and that she had stayed until the end.

7.3. Report of the Association Environment & Ethics Officer

Ms Urbonaite informed the Council that she had attended a conference on student activism.

Ms Urbonaite informed the Council that that she was talking with the environment team and Estates about going through every building and switching off everything during green week.

Ms Urbonaite informed the Council that she was working with the environment team, Bubble TV, and Blind Mirth for a recycling video. Ms Urbonaite stated that filming would be taking place on either the 21st or 24th of November and would then be displayed on the library's video screens.

Mr Urbonaite informed the Council that she was looking for ideas for Green Week, which would be taking place during week 7 of semester 2. Ms Urbonaite requested that members contact her if they would like to hold a green-themed event during that week.

7.4. Report of the LGBT Officer

Mr Norris informed the Council that the LGBT Committee was currently having some problems. Mr Norris stated that there was lots of work and the treasurer would have to leave next semester.

Mr Norris informed the Council that a sexual health talk had been cancelled as the Terrence Higgins Trust was unable to attend. Mr Norris stated that other poorly attended events had been cancelled. Mr Norris stated that a pyjama party, in the Salad Bowl, with a showing of *Clueless*, was planned.

Mr Norris informed the Council that the Glitter Ball was entering the planning stages and the hotel had now been booked. Mr Norris stated that he would keep the Council up to date.

Mr Norris informed the Council that he was in discussions with the Dundee LGBT committee to organise a forum of LGBT presidents and officers to discuss LGBT issues.

Mr Norris informed the Council that he was planning to bring MSP Shona Robison to give a speech, on homophobia in sport, for Healthy Body Healthy Mind.

Ms Kelly asked when the talk would be.

Mr Woodhouse stated that the date would depend on Ms Robison's ministerial schedule.

7.4. Report of the Association Postgraduate President

Mr Schorr informed the Council that there were several events coming up: a bonfire on East Sands with marshmallows; a Stand Talk the next day in School 2 at 8pm the next day, that would then be posted online and another talk on the 20th of November; a Main Bar social; and a movie night continuing the Guy Fawkes theme.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that a large step had been taking in improving the representation of postgraduates from different school, both research and taught, with the establishment of a forum specifically for that. Mr Schorr thanked Mr Woodhouse for helping to establish the forum.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that there had been a discussion about the role of the Students' Representative Council and Student Services Council during the Committee meeting so the Committee was now aware of what was going on.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that planning for graduation weekend was now on going. Mr Schorr stated that a large weekend was planned, 300 tickets had been reserved for postgraduates for the 600th Finale Ball, a postgraduate wine event was planned, and a graduation brunch was also planned. Mr Schorr stated that planning for the larger events of semester 2 had now started.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that plans for refreshers week were now being looked at.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that he was looking at creating the position of accommodation officer on his committee to get feedback from postgraduates.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that mental health had been identified as a problem amongst the postgraduate research community resulting in longer-term problems.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that a final amended version of the constitution would be completed by the 16th of November.

Mr Schorr informed the Council that the members of his committee had a lot of ideas on rebranding.

Ms Hill asked if Mr Schorr could explain the purpose of the postgraduate representative committee. Ms Hill stated that it sounded as though it would duplicate the work of the Students' Representative Council.

Mr Schorr stated that it would function like the school presidents' forum.

Ms Hill recommended that the committee have a name change so its function was clear. Ms Hill requested that Mr Schorr speak to her about the postgraduate accommodation officer, as she was worried that it might duplicate the work of the Students' Representative Council. Ms Hill stated that the Students' Representative Council did not only work on undergraduate issues.

Mr Taylor stated that it might be helpful if he, Ms Cunningham and other were included in that discussion.

Ms Cunningham stated that a lot of accommodation was advertised exclusively for postgraduates.

Mr Schorr stated that his intention was not to antagonise anyone but that a need had been identified and that was being worked on.

Mr Taylor stated that the postgraduate community be made aware that the Students' Representative Council did work for them and that, in fact, the only people he had spoken to over the summer had been postgraduates.

Mr Schorr asked that their feedback be relayed to him so that the committee would know what was going on.

Ms Hill stated that the head of Dean's Court and Gannochy were completely involved in their activities.

Mr Woodhouse stated that he viewed the Postgraduate Representative Committee as being similar to the School President's forum.

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

Mr Woodhouse read a report from Mr DaBell that stated that Mr DaBell was looking at the provision of study space in North Haugh and that he would be speaking with the Class Representatives soon.

Mr Baldi stated that the members of the Council should feel free to email Mr DaBell with their questions.

7.8. Report of the SRC Accommodation Officer

Mr Taylor informed the Council that a Have Your Say event would be held in School 2 at 7pm on Thursday. Ms Hill would be present, as would representatives from RBS, the preservation trust, and the community council. They would speak on accommodation issues, after which questions would be taken from the floor. Mr Taylor requested that the members advertise the events to their friends. Mr Taylor stated that The Saint, Stand and Citizen would hopefully be attending.

Ms Hill requested that members come otherwise it would just be the community council yelling at her.

Ms Cunningham suggested that she and Mr Taylor go on the Sabbatical Officers' radio should to advertise the event.

7.9. Report of the SRC Education Officer

Mr Hajda informed the Council that a library survey would be going out soon and that the first draft would be available in time for the SLUG meeting.

Mr Hajda informed the Council that he had asked the Estates team about expanding the parking spaces for bikes by the library and that they were looking in to it.

Mr Hajda informed the Council that he had attended a library LEAN session on how they can make the library more efficient.

Mr Hajda informed the Council that the Education Committee wanted to make a list of study spaces that would be available, including the 24/7 computer rooms, and libraries. Mr Hajda stated that he wanted the library to advertise the number of people in the library, given that they now had access to those figures.

Ms Cunningham stated that there was already something similar on the University's mobile application that showed how many computers were currently available. Ms Cunningham stated that the application also crashed a lot.

Ms Turner stated that in the past commuter students could take books out over the weekend and that fines were look upon more kindly. Ms Turner asked what had happened to that, given that it now didn't happen.

Mr Woodhouse stated that was an urban myth and had only been floated as a possibility in the past. Mr Woodhouse stated that whether it should be put in place would be a different discussion.

Ms Turner asked if that was something that could be looked at.

Mr Hajda stated that the format of short loan borrowing had been changed because students had been complaining about it and that, currently, if a book was taken out on Friday afternoon it had to be returned on Saturday morning to allow more students to have access to the book.

Ms Cunningham stated that commuter students had "C's" on their cards but that was no longer happening.

Ms Turner stated that commuter students still had Townsend and the commuter room. ASC put the "C" on the card.

7.10. Report of the SRC Equal Opportunities Officer

Ms Mohamud informed the Council that the event for Black History Month had been held. Ms Mohamud stated that she hoped the members of the council had enjoyed the event.

Ms Hill stated that the event had been awesome.

Ms Mohamud expressed her hope that the event would become an annual tradition. Ms Mohamud stated that there were problems associated with the event such as why the event started and what it meant in contemporary times. Ms Mohamud stated that the event had focussed on issues specific to Scotland, and their key speaker had some great examples. Ms Mohamud advised the members to attend future events. Ms Mohamud stated that she didn't want people to think the event was great but rather to come away questioning the issues and to be engaged.

Ms Mohamud informed the Council that she had been working on the international student immigration campaign with Ms Hill and Ms Rhoads. Ms Mohamud stated that she was working on a video that would emphasise the different implications of the bill. Ms Mohamud stated that she had wanted to avoid focussing on the benefits to UK and EU students and focus on the benefits to the

International students. Ms Mohamud stated that the video would also focus on how students not only learned through their studies but through their interactions with other students. Ms Mohamud stated that it would question what the University were like if it were only UK and EU students with no international students. Ms Mohamud expressed her hope that the video would be available by Friday. Ms Mohamud requested that the members of the Council share the video widely as the policies will affect everyone.

Mr Hajda stated that the University of Sheffield had a similar campaign and their slogan was “We’re all international students”.

Ms Mohamud stated that the problem with the video is they knew what content they wanted in but that the first 10 seconds were absolutely crucial. Ms Mohamud stated that was why the name was important. Ms Mohamud stated that there would be bullet points on the timeline and that she would edit the video that evening. Ms Mohamud stated that she would post that on the Councils’ group and people can then suggest titles.

Ms Hill stated that *The Saint* had clearly not attended Ms Mohamud event as all of their complaints had been addressed at the start of the event.

7.11. Report of the SRC Employability Officer

Ms Sebagh informed the Council that she had been attending the employability class representative expansion packs for the past two weeks.

Ms Sebagh informed the Council that she had met with Pam and Robert and looked at the ways they could help students in different schools and the event they want to put in place.

Ms Sebagh informed the Council that she had met with representatives from CAPOD about their employability conference that would be taking place during the inter-semester break. Ms Sebagh stated that she had been looking at the budget and had submitted an application for a £1000 of funding and they would find out about that application the next day. Ms Sebagh stated that she had managed to bring the cost of the conference down from £50 to £30 for students. Ms Sebagh stated that they were still looking for sponsors.

Ms Mohamud stated that Ms Morrice, the Member for Student with Disabilities, was working on a Careers Fair for students with disabilities. Ms Mohamud stated that if Ms Sebagh were to work with her it would be amazing, as Ms Sebagh would have the right contacts.

7.12. Report of the SRC External Campaigns Officer

Mr Bryce informed the Council that he wanted to organise a meeting with one of the Sabbatical Officers and Ms Urbonaite about procurement policy.

7.13. Report of the SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities

There was no report from the SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities.

7.14. Report of the SRC Member for First Year

There was no report from the SRC Member for First Year.

7.15. Report of the SRC Member for Gender Equality

There was no report from the SRC Member for Gender Equality.

7.16. Report of the SRC Member for International Students

Ms Rhoads informed the Council that she had been working on the immigration bill campaign.

7.17. Report of the SRC Member for Mature Students

Ms Turner informed the Council that she had been working with Mr Woodhouse trying to find her feet. Ms Turner stated that she hoped to attend the meetings on the schedule Mr Schorr had given her. Ms Turner stated that, as she was a first year, she was still getting used to the workload.

7.18. Report of the SRC Member for Private Accommodation

Ms Cunningham informed the Council that a planning application to build private accommodation where the hospital was had been submitted as well as one by East Sands, which had initially been rejected. Ms Cunningham stated that they would need to gauge student opinion on the matter. Ms Cunningham stated that she was not fond of private accommodation as there were problems with the levels of pastoral care and deposits. Ms Cunningham stated that those would need to be addressed.

Ms Cunningham informed the Council that that there were problems with the town commission on housing, the draft of which was now out. Ms Cunningham stated that the estate agents lists would be out in February. Ms Cunningham stated that the accommodation information would need to be released either now or immediately after students returned from the inter-semester break.

Ms Cunningham informed the Council that she was looking at holding a speed-flatmating event. Ms Cunningham stated that it would be like speed dating but for finding flat mates. Ms Cunningham stated that costings and bookings would need to be arranged.

Mr Cupples stated that Ms Allan was carrying out work on private accommodation and Ms Cunningham should discuss the matter with her. Mr Cupples stated that, in terms of his own remit, there were issues with dispute resolutions and similar things.

Ms Cunningham stated that she had heard horror stories about private halls in Dundee, such as students being left locked out overnight in the middle of winter.

Ms Hill stated that she had went for coffee with the man behind the East Sands development and that he was looking at the property being University managed but privately owned. Ms Hill stated that she was impressed by how keen he had been to make it work for students. Ms Hill added that he had been around the halls looking at how the wardenial team worked and that the University had said that they wouldn't run it unless there was one.

Ms Turner asked what the University's position had been when the plans were rejected initially.

Ms Hill stated that they did not have a specific opinion but that were in favour of anything that reduce the pressure on accommodation and offered affordable accommodation.

Ms Turner asked if the University had been working on it.

Ms Hill answered that it wasn't worth the University's time unless the project got through planning. Ms Hill stated that they had written a letter in support of the idea rather than the specific plan.

Ms Turner stated that she had been wondering about their position but that it seemed from what Ms Hill was stating was they supported it in principle.

Ms Hill stated that they had concerns but, as they had very little money to build halls, they wanted to find ways to keep the benefits without the costs.

Ms Cunningham stated that as the halls were to be near Albany Park, leaflets had been put through all of their doors stating that they could object or support the project.

Ms Hill stated that it seemed like the Community Council had never supported a development project, only opposed or ignored them.

7.19. Report of the SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

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

7.20. Report of the SRC Member for University Accommodation

Ms O'Brien informed the Council that the senior students had met but there had been a lot of absences due to illnesses and deadlines. Ms O'Brien stated that they had dealt with a few little things such as laundry pricing. Ms O'Brien stated that there was no an accommodation team twitter account.

7.21. Report of the SRC Member for Widening Access

Ms Hill read a report from Mr Anderson stating that Mr Anderson had met with the Ambassadors responsible for widening access; that he had had a positive discussion about the beyond five initiative; and that he would be meeting with Ms Hill when he had time.

7.22. Report of the SRC Wellbeing Officer

Ms Borg informed the Council that Raisin Weekend had taken place, and that the raisin kits had been designed, made, and distributed on time. Ms Borg thanked all those who helped. Ms Borg stated that she wanted the kits to be distributed next year and that she would be writing a report on them. Ms Borg stated that attempts had been made to distribute them outside physics and the medicine building but that there had been little interest.

Ms Borg informed the Council that sexy health week would be moved to next semester.

Ms Borg informed the Council that she would be meeting with her committee to organise the take care campaign for during the revision period. Ms Borg informed the Council that she wanted to have a campaign to raise awareness of seasonal affective disorder (SAD). Ms Borg stated that she was trying to have the SAD lamp moved to the library, to create a list of study spaces, a poster campaign would be carried out featuring study tips and breathing exercises to keep relaxed, and that she was going to try and partner with the Old Union Café to have discounts on healthy foods.

Ms Hill stated that the Bell Pettigrew building was awesome.

Ms Borg stated that it was.

Ms Cunningham stated that, though it wasn't advertised, the Chaplaincy had a SAD lamp that people could use.

Ms Hill stated that Student Services send people to it and you can only use it after Student Services send you to it.

Ms Borg stated that she was looking to have it moved during the revision period.

Ms Hill asked if they could get another SAD lamp.

Ms Borg stated that it would be looked in to when they were running the SAD campaign.

7.23. Any Other Competent Reports

Mr Baldi informed the Council that the Executive Committee had convened the previous week and that the minutes were online. Mr Baldi stated that the committee had clarified the absence policy, adopted guidelines on the reinstatement of members, considered the reinstatement of a member and subsequently reinstated him subject to conditions. Mr Baldi stated that it was likely they would meet within the next 12 days.

8. Unfinished General Business

There was no 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

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.

Mr Hajda proposed the motion, Ms Kelly seconded.

Mr Hajda proposed the motion as follows: Schools have surveys on modules every semester but the students never see the results or the actions taken and neither do the class representatives or school presidents. This motion will press the University to set a clear structure for what happens with feedback and how the information should be made available to students. The ultimate goal will be to have the information available to students but, due to the structural changes being carried out by the university, that was a long-term goal. This can be approached by asking School Presidents to place it on the agenda of the SSCCs at the start of each semester and ask the Directors of Teaching what the outcomes had been and how they can work with the data. The second part of that would be having the SSCC minutes placed online so students could see the outcomes of the discussions.

Ms Cunningham asked if there was a standardised policy on when the surveys should be handed out as she had been surprised to receive one that day.

Ms Hill stated that the survey she had received wouldn't have been a University standard one but that some schools carried out mid-semester surveys.

Ms Hill stated that she loved the fact that the University didn't already do this as they took the feedback on board, made positive changes, but didn't tell anyone that they'd done anything.

Ms Cunningham asked if the staff reviews would be made available.

Mr Hajda answered that he wanted the outcomes available and that he wouldn't be keen on the individual reports being made available.

Ms Urbonaite asked what happened if a lecturer consistently received bad reviews.

Mr Woodhouse answered that particularly noteworthy scores would be noticed by the directors of teaching and they had mechanisms in place to deal with it.

Ms Hill stated that it was not appropriate to have staff reviews in public and that even the Association had staff meetings *in camera*.

Ms Cunningham proposed an amendment to read:

This Students' Representative Council resolves:

[...]

5. To encourage the University to make results of module evaluation questionnaires available to both students and staff online.

The amendment was accepted without dissent.

The question was called on the motion as amended.

The as-amended motion was adopted without dissent.

9.2. R. 15 A Motion to 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.

Mr Woodhouse proposed the motion, Ms Rhoads seconded.

Mr Woodhouse introduced the motion as such: I imagine that everyone had read through the campaign material but one of the facts that wasn't included was that St Andrews was in the top 5 most international universities in the UK and so St Andrews would be particularly affected by this policy. This is about the principle that we're a community of students of which international students are a part. Once you're here you should be a part of the community and not be constantly reminded that you're different. Students are here to learn and not be interrogated by immigration officials all the time. Policies like these have implications in that universities find it more difficult to attract international students and that could be stopping intelligent students attending the university.

Ms Hill stated that the motion was really well written.

Ms Mohamud asked if it was possible to get a figure for the economic benefit excluding EU students, as the bill didn't concern them.

Ms Hill answered that the figure came from the University's report and they had combined the figures.

Ms Turner stated that, in reference to note 5, that ordinary British people purchased access to healthcare via their taxes.

Ms Hill stated that students don't pay taxes.

Ms Cunningham stated that students only rarely paid tax.

Ms Turner stated that they paid NI and the NI paid for the healthcare. Ms Turner stated that 'purchasing access' might not be the right term and she had started paying NI at 16.

Ms Kelly asked how this bill would affect student who paid international fees but who were British citizens.

Ms Hill answered that it would be an additional fee on the visa and that the £200 figure was that suggested by the University but that it could be raised.

Ms Hibak stated that, in reference to Ms Turner's point, she drew the distinction between paying taxes and purchasing access.

Ms Turner stated that, in the grand scheme of things, £200 was not a big deal.

Mr Woodhouse stated that the £200 was for one student, if they had dependents the costs could quickly rack up.

Ms Hill stated that visas were already really expensive.

Ms Mohamud stated that it wasn't the value that was significant but that it opened a door that might never be closed again. Ms Mohamud stated that international students already paid a lot of fees and that it decreased the amount of students who wanted to study here given the costs.

Ms Cunningham stated that she liked the fact that she had friends from all over the world despite having barely left home.

Ms Mohamud stated that politicians tended to refer to international students as immigrants and to talk about benefits tourism but students don't talk about being tourists but about it being their home. Ms Mohamud stated that international students weren't any different to students from Kirkcaldy.

Ms Cunningham stated that for some students, after they graduated, would need to leave but if they stayed they would tend to go into high paying jobs. Ms Cunningham stated that, given the brain drain the UK was experiencing, international students were a net gain.

Ms Mohamud stated that issues surrounding visas were already a problem for students, adding NHS issues on top would only increase the challenges they faced.

A roll call vote was called in the Students' Representative Council:

OFFICE	NAME	AYE	NO	ABS.
Arts/Divinity Senate Representative	Sophie Kelly	X		
Association Community Relations Officer	Katie O'Donnell	X		
Association Director of Events & Services	Daniel Palmer	X		
Association Director of Representation	Edward Woodhouse	X		
Association Director of Student Development & Activities	Kelsey Gold	X		
Association Environment & Ethics Officer	Dominyka Urbonaite	X		
Association LGBT Officer	David Norris	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	X		
SRC Accommodation Officer	Scott Taylor	X		
SRC Education Officer	Ondrej Hajda	X		
SRC Employability Officer	Lonie Sebahg	X		
SRC Equal Opportunities & Welfare Officer	Hibak Yusuf Mohamud	X		
SRC External Campaigns Officer	Callum Bryce	X		
SRC Member for Ethnic Minorities	Soraya Walli			
SRC Member for First Year	Joshua Carlton			
SRC Member for Gender Equality	Ali West			
SRC Member for International Students	Caroline Rhoads	X		
SRC Member for Mature Students	Melissa Turner			X
SRC Member for Private Accommodation	Ruth Cunningham	X		
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		
Students' Representative Council Welfare Officer	Avalon Borg	X		

With 20 votes in the affirmative and 0 in the negative, the motion was adopted in the Students' Representative Council.

Ms Hill stated that she was interested in working to get students removed from the immigration figures as that would keep students out of the debate and make the government look good.

Mr Cupples stated that University representation bodies had been lobbying the government for that for a while but that it had so far been resisted.

Mr Norris asked if they would continue to keep count of the visas.

Mr Cupples stated that they would, they just wouldn't count towards migration figures.

10. Any Other Competent Business

10.1 Announcements

Ms Hill stated the Rewind was on Saturday and that she thought the Students' Representative Council should all go together.

Ms O'Brien stated that the Societies Committee had already claimed some members.

Mr Baldi stated that there was only one more Students' Representative Council meeting left that semester. Mr Baldi stated that if the members wanted something discussed before the 28th of January they would need to submit their motions by the 16th of November. Mr Baldi stated that he wanted to avoid a joint meeting at the end of the semester, especially as Tuesday of revision week was now being used for the Christmas dinner.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2043