



Minutes of the First Caledonian Student Voice of session 2012/13

Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd October, 2012, at 3pm in M140.

1. Sign In:

Present: E. McLean (Chair); C. Fyfe; D. Borrett; S. Wylie; N. Lowden; M. Lamb; A. Law; K. McKeown; G. Watson; E. Morrow; A. Scott; S. Dhakal; P.L. Choo; P. Dolan; A. Ross; S. McDade; C. Stone; A. Biney; A. Duffy; A. Khan; M. Akbar; C. Shaw; J. Gaughan

Apologies: E. Todorova; R. Hewitt; I. Ajiero; C. Gallagher; E. Hollow; R. Barclay; M. Mallela; H. Sikander; S. Bhatti

In attendance: Kevin Ward; Julie Price

Absent: Y. Mann; T. Ellis; R. Barrowman; A. Rafay; C.L. McKain; J. Turley

Members who were absent without apologies have received an automatic Caution from Student Voice. Any member who receives three Cautions will automatically face a Vote of No Confidence at which members of Voice may decide to remove them from their position.

2. Previous Minutes - The Chair invited members to comment on the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting, held on Tuesday 3rd April 2012. Members confirmed that the minutes were approved.

The minutes of the Sports Executive meeting held on Friday 28th September were also approved.

3. Matters Arising – None

Before the meeting proceeded, the Chair introduced the Student Officer Team (SOT) to the other members of Student Voice and explained how the demographic of Student Voice was made up.

4. Ideas

Idea 1 - Student Office Engagement – Carla Fyfe, Student President (SP)

C. Fyfe introduced the idea and gave examples of student engagement. She explained the current score of who knew the Student Officers in the Students' Association survey was very low (22%).

Questions:

J. Gaughan and C. Shaw asked questions which allowed the proposer to clarify how the quota would be measured and what student engagement days were. C. Shaw also asked how the 2011/12 survey results compared with previous years – the Chair asked K. Ward to find this information.

Improvements - No improvements were suggested

Outcome: The majority of members accepted Idea 1 without improvements

Idea 2 – Sports Policy Document Update – Amy Ross, Sports Executive Chair

The proposer said that a few amendments had been made to the document, including a change of titles and an additional policy on membership quotas and debt.

Questions:

M. Akbar highlighted that the cricket club's season was different so the rules may adversely affect them

- A. Ross and S. Wylie assured that this was a general rule and individual club circumstances would be considered

Improvements – No improvements were suggested

Outcome: The majority of members accepted Idea 2 without improvements

At this stage the Chair confirmed that the comparison of Students' Association survey results was available. The results showed that the figure for students who knew who the Student Officers were in 2010/11 was 62%, 40% more than in 2011/12.

Idea 3 – Mature Student Induction Pack – Pauline Dolan, Mature Students' Convenor

The proposer explained that with no Mature Students' Society, she felt underrepresented at GCU. She found out that a pamphlet for mature students existed, but only after she had begun her course. 1/3 of GCU students are mature, so it is important they are greater represented.

Improvements:

- The Chair suggested that GCU should be encouraged to distribute the pamphlet to all mature students.
- The proposer said that she felt a society should already exist and students shouldn't have to set one up each year. The Chair clarified the difference between a 'society' and 'group' – societies are student led and have to be set up and run by students. N. Lowden could advise on society, S. Wylie on a group. The proposer said that a group would be preferable.
- The Chair said an improvement should be added to say that the President or relevant Vice President should work with P. Dolan to discuss and investigate this further.

Outcome: The majority of members accepted Idea 3 with the following improvements:

- President and VPs to investigate getting wider circulation on GCU pamphlet
- P. Dolan to work with N. Lowden/S. Wylie to set up society/group

Idea 4 – Rename the Student Officer Team – Carla Fyfe, Student President

C. Fyfe explained the reason for wanting to change the name back to Executive Committee

Questions:

C. Shaw: would other existing Executive Committees have the change their names if this Idea was accepted?

- It was agreed that this would be the case and that, whilst they wouldn't have a say in needed to change, they could decide what they wanted to be called instead.

A. Ross: would this would Idea override the Idea she had just had accepted?

- The Chair confirmed that this idea would override the name change in her earlier idea.

Improvements:

C. Shaw suggested that the name change of other 'Executive' Committees be added to the idea.

A. Scott left the meeting at 15.50

M. Akbar suggested the name change should be to 'Student Executive Committee' rather than 'Executive Committee'

Both of these suggested Improvements resulted in short debates on the pros and cons of each idea.

Members voted on adding the Improvement to mandate the Sports and Societies Executive Committees to change their names to the Idea:

- 14 voted 'for'
- 7 voted 'against'

Members voted on the Improvement to add the word 'Student' to the 'Executive Committee' in the Idea:

- 6 voted 'for'
- 14 voted 'against'
- 1 abstained from voting

A vote was then held on accepting the improved Idea:

- 17 voted 'for'
- 0 voted 'against'
- 3 abstained from voting
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Outcome: Idea 4 was approved with the following amendment:

- Existing 'Executive' Committees would be mandated to change their name.

The Chair asked members' consent to take photographs during the meeting – all members approved.

M. Lamb left the meeting at 16.20

5. Reports

The Chair asked the Executive Committee, who had submitted reports, if they had anything to add verbally. He invited members to ask questions on any areas after updates had been given.

- C. Fyfe – contacted 6 other Students' Unions/Associations to ask for support to her request to NUS and Ipsos MORI to change the wording of Question 23 in the NSS, as this appears to have negatively impacted upon GCUSA's score.

There were no questions from members

Members approved C. Fyfe's report and objectives

N. Lowden – nothing to add

C. Shaw questioned N. Lowden on GCU room booking fees for societies

- N. Lowden confirmed this was still being looked at but there had been no issues so far this year.

C. Shaw questioned the status of having a bar on campus

- N. Lowden explained that would be one of his Trimester 2 objectives. He said that GCUSA knew the demand for a bar and that it would be looked into but that it wouldn't happen this year.

Members approved the N. Lowden's report and objectives

S. Wylie – nothing to add

J. Gaughan asked a few questions related to the report, which the S. Wylie answered.

Members approved of the S. Wylie's report and objectives

D. Borrett – nothing to add

J. Gaughan asked for clarification on two points of the report, which D. Borrett provided.

Members approved D. Borrett's report and objectives

GCUSA accounts -

The Chair apologised on behalf of GCUSA for the lack of commentary on the report. C. Fyfe confirmed that she now had the commentary but that it had not been available in time for the reports being circulated.

C. Shaw asked what had happened with the income expected from the Freshers' Week handbook.

- The Executive Committee could not confirm this but said they would bring this information to the next meeting – **ACTION – Executive Committee**

S. Dhakal asked why the income from interest was so low.

- The Chair clarified that the Trustee Board were responsible for financial decisions. C. Fyfe said that she was not willing to discuss this matter at Student Voice but that the issues would be looked at and brought back at a later meeting.

K. McKeown and A. Biney left at 16.30

The Chair discussed with members whether they wished to guillotine the meeting. Members agreed to continue.

The accounts report was accepted with the proviso that actions agreed would be brought back.

6. Affiliated Clubs/Societies

N. Lowden asked that the newest affiliated Society, the Computing Society, be ratified.

Members agreed to ratify this new society, with no objections or questions.

7. Elections

Returning Officer for Student Voice

The Chair advised on the student member role, and called for nominations.

No nominations – **position remains vacant**

International Students' Convenor

The Chair advised on the student member role, and called for nominations.

M. Akbar nominated and was approved by members

Taught Postgraduate Students' Convenor

The Chair advised on the student member role, and called for nominations.

A. Khan nominated and was approved by members

Elections Committee positions

The Chair advised on the student member role, confirming there were five places and called for nominations.

P.L. Choo, A. Ross, A. Khan and M. Akbar nominated and were approved by members. The fifth position would be brought back to next meeting

C. Fyfe explained the Glasgow Youth Council to members and said they were looking for two members from GCU. She said that she would circulate the information to all members.

ACTION: C. Fyfe

C. Stone left the meeting at 16.50

8. AOCB

E. Morrow asked for clarification of which members could be the Returning Officer for Student Voice. This was clarified by the Chair.

C. Shaw asked why the minutes for the Societies Executive Committee hadn't been made available. N. Lowden said that they had not been ready in time for the meeting

J. Gaughan asked about the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings. D. Borrett explained that they were setting a new format for the minutes and so they had not been available in time. She confirmed that they would be published online once available.

P. Dolan asked whether any issues she would like to raise could only be brought to Student Voice or if there were other ways. The Chair explained that Student Voice was the mechanism through which official changes could be made but that she could speak to the Student President or VPs regarding any issues she had. N. Lowden also highlighted that Ideas could be submitted online at any time.

Meeting closed at 16.55

Date of next meeting
TBA



Minutes of the Second Caledonian Student Voice of session 2012/13

Meeting held on Thursday 8th November, 2012, at 5pm in M225.

1. Sign In:

Present: E. McLean (Chair); C. Fyfe; D. Borrett; S. Wylie; N. Lowden; A. Law; R. Hewitt; G. Watson; I Ajiero; J Morrison; E. Morrow; M. Akbar; P.L. Choo; P. Dolan; R Amaehule; M Stephenson; A. Biney; A. Duffy

Apologies: M. Lamb; K. McKeown; N Clark; E. Todorova; C Gallagher; E. Hollow; Y. Mann; A Ross; S. McDade; C Stone; R Habib; C Shaw; J Turley

In attendance: Kevin Ward; Julie Price; Grigory Pechurin (INTO Scotland)

Absent: A Scott; R Barrowman; R Barclay; A Rafay; M Mallela; D Pollard; H Sikander; C McKain; J Gaughan

Members who were absent without apologies have received an automatic Caution from Student Voice. Any member who receives three Cautions will automatically face a Vote of No Confidence at which members of Voice may decide to remove them from their position.

2. Previous Minutes - The Chair invited members to comment on the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting, held on Wednesday 3rd October 2012. Members confirmed that the minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Recording of student engagement – a spreadsheet has now been created. The student demographics and subject matter are now being recorded with the Executive engage with students.

4. Minutes of Student Voice Committees

All sets of minutes approved

5. Ideas

Idea 1 – Rename the Sports Executive – Amy Ross, Sports Executive Chair

N Lowden presented this idea, on behalf of the proposer, to change 'Sports Executive Committee' to 'Sports Council'. This idea was a result of the one passed at the previous student voice, which mandated a change.

Improvements - No improvements were suggested

Outcome: Members unanimously accepted Idea 1 without improvements

Idea 2 – Rename Societies Executive – Michael Stephenson, Societies Executive Chair

M Stephenson presented this idea, which was a result of the same mandate as Idea 1, to change 'Societies Executive Committee' to 'Societies Council'.

Questions/comments:

- M Akbar stated that the above had not been discussed at the Societies Committee meeting. M Stephenson said that the issues would be put on the next Societies Committee meeting agenda.
- M Stephenson asked whether this name could be changed again if the committee thought it necessary. It was confirmed that it could be brought back to Student Voice if a change was sought.

Improvements – No improvements were suggested

Outcome: Members unanimously accepted Idea 2 without improvements

Idea 3 – Limited the number of bake sales – Sinead Wylie, VP Wellbeing

The proposer explained that one of the objectives in her role was to promote and encourage healthy eating. She said that there had been a high number of bake sales already this Trimester and that they did not encourage healthy eating to GCU students. She suggested that bake sales be limited to one per club/society per academic year and that the number be limited to one sale per week for any club/society.

Improvements:

- A Ross submitted an improvement in advance. She suggested that the idea be changed to 'per trimester' than 'per year'.
- S Wylie suggested adding 'in the Students' Association Building' into the Idea

Questions/comments:

- G Watson asked how it would be decided who could hold a sale when; how would it be prioritised? S Wylie said it would be a first-come, first-served process, hence permitted only one per year. She said this would also encourage clubs/societies to think of other methods of fundraising.
- C Fyfe said that the Executive team could help with other ways to fundraise and agreed that the current state of affairs conflicted with GCUSA's healthy eating agenda. She also stated that this would free up space for other stalls in the SA.
- N Lowden asked what would happen if there was a free week and a club/society that had already had a sale wanted to book it. It was agreed that this would not be permitted if this idea was passed as it was not just a timetabling issue but also about promoting healthy eating.
- S Wylie stated that one per trimester would cause conflict as it would further limit the number of clubs who could hold sales.

- D Borrett stated that with over 70 clubs/societies affiliated, one per trimester would not be enough to accommodate all who wanted to hold bake sales. She said that with only 24 weeks in the academic year, only 1/3 of clubs would be able to hold a sale.
- M Stephenson said that the change of rules may disadvantage newly affiliated clubs/societies.
- N Lowden asked what would be the process for clubs who have already held a sale this academic year.
- J Morrison asked how having up to one bake sale per week would encourage healthy eating. S Wylie responded that the Idea was to deter more sales, as had been happening recently.
- J Morrison also highlighted that that Baking Society may suffer from this change. C Fyfe said that GCUSA could try and help societies host sales elsewhere outside the SA building, which was not currently allowed.
- P Dolan suggested that bake sales be banned altogether. J Morrison said that banning or limiting sales still would not encourage healthy eating; she suggested the SA subsidise fruit to be sold alongside bake sales.
- N Lowden said that bakes sales raised up to £2000/year for clubs/societies. C Fyfe responded that the Idea wasn't all about money but also the fact that the sales conflicted with other GCUSA policies.

Vote on Improvement – change from one per year to per semester:

- 6 for, 7 against, 3 abstentions
- Improvement rejected

Vote on Improvement – add 'within Students' Association Building' to the Idea:

- 11 for, 6 against
- Improvement accepted

Outcome: The majority of members accepted Idea 3 with the following improvements:

- Add 'within Students' Association Building' into the idea

Idea 4 – GCUSA should 'twin' with University of Bethlehem Student Senate – J. Turley

A. Duffy introduced this idea on behalf of J. Turley.

The wording of the idea was changed to say that idea, if passed, would lead to GCUSA inviting UoBSS to arrange a twinning agreement.

P.L. Choo left meeting at 1745.

Questions/comments:

- D. Borrett asked whether it was the Palestine Society intending to twin or the whole Students' Association. A. Duffy said it was the whole Association.
- M. Stephenson said that there was little detail provided as to what the SA would be signing up to at this stage, such as whether it would be a political or apolitical twinning, and that more concrete information should be provided before a decision should be made.

Improvement – Executive Committee and Students for Palestine Society to open discussions on twinning with UoBSS.

Vote on improvement – unanimous.

ACTION: EXECUTIVE AND STUDENTS FOR PALESTINE SOCIETY TO OPEN DISCUSSION

Idea 5 – GCUSA should affiliate with “Right to Education” Campaign – A. Duffy

A. Duffy introduced the idea, outlining what the campaign was for.

Questions/comments:

- D. Borrett asked for more details on what the campaign would require? If passed, would the SA be committing itself to provide time, resources, etc. to the campaign? A. Duffy said that accepting the Idea would be a gateway for GCUSA to express their support and show that we understand the importance of education worldwide.
- D. Borrett asked if the campaign was Palestine specific. A Duffy confirmed that it was.

Improvement – GCUSA Executive to be mandated to actively support and participate in “Right to Education” campaign, such as welcoming visiting students.

Questions/comments:

- C. Fyfe said that not all Executive Committee members both present and future would necessarily be comfortable being mandated to take part in this campaign. It was suggested to change the wording to Students’ Association. C. Fyfe said that either way, this would still come down to the Executive Committee.
- M Stephenson asked whether there was any other less specific campaign regarding worldwide education that the SA could actively support. A. Duffy said that she was not sure about this.
- G. Watson asked whether passing this idea would mean the SA was taking a political stance. The Chair confirmed that, if passed, it would mean that GCUSA would be taking a pro-Palestine, anti-occupation, stance.

Improvement – Executive Committee to discuss matter with Students for Palestine Society to establish what the policy and related campaigns might look like.

Questions/comments:

- M. Stephenson said that the SA should consult with students rather than mandate Officers on their behalf. A. Duffy said that students had been consulted before submitting the idea. The Chair reminded members that papers had been out for a week and that any member could have consulting students. He also stated that Student Voice does have mandate to make such decisions.

Improvement –binding referendum, with quorum, to be held alongside SA elections in February

Vote – 15 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions

ACTION: SA TO ARRANGE REFERENDUM ON SUPPORTING “RIGHT TO EDUCATION” CAMPAIGN DURING FEBRUARY ELECTIONS

6. Reports

Executive:

- The Chair asked whether Nightline shifts available and covered had been documented. S. Wylie said they were included in her report.

School Officers; Convenors:

- No questions
- C. Fyfe said that International Student Support Service had congratulated the International Students Convenor on their work with ISSS regarding accommodation and the website.

Accounts:

- No questions

7. GCUSA Elections

K. Ward highlighted changes that have been made to the elections this year and opened the floor up to questions.

S. Wylie asked whether campaigning around the 24-hour lab was permitted.

- Yes, as long as candidates/campaigners don't interfere with voting

S. Wylie also wanted to confirm that official GCUSA Facebook pages were not permitted to be used for campaigning.

- This was confirmed

C. Fyfe asked how candidates would be briefed if they didn't attend either briefing session.

- K. Ward said that if they couldn't make either session he could speak to them individually, although this would be time-consuming.

S. Wylie asked about campaigning in Caledonian Court.

- the SA will speak to Accommodation Office before the election period. Campaigning in halls is not against election rules, but advised candidates to use common sense.

8. Affiliations

N. Lowden informed members that a Capoeira club has been established and was seeking affiliation. The new club was unanimously accepted.

9. Student Voice Elections

Student Voice Deputy Chair – no nominations; position remains vacant.

Elections Committee – M. Stephenson and R. Amaehule duly elected. All positions now filled.

10. AOCB

C. Fyfe explained the “Unlock Scotland’s Potential” campaign to members and asked them all to sign up and to get their classmates/groups to do so too.

Meeting closed at 18:05

Date of next meeting

TBA



Minutes of the Third Caledonian Student Voice of session 2012/13

Meeting held on Thursday 31st January, 2013, at 4.30pm in W119.

1. Sign In:

Present: E. McLean (Chair); C. Fyfe; D. Borrett; S. Wylie; N. Lowden; A. Law; N. Clark; I Ajiero; J Morrison; C. Gallagher; E. Hollow; P. Dolan; C. Murphy; G Pechurin; S McDade; C Stone; C. White; A. Duffy; R Habib; R Barclay; C. Shaw; J Turley

Apologies: M. Lamb; K. McKeown; R. Hewitt; G. Lawson; E. Morrow; A. Scott; Y. Mann; M. Akbar; P. Choo; M. Mallela; H. Sikander; J. Gaughan

In attendance: Kevin Ward; Julie Price

Absent: E. Todorova; R. Okojie; A Ross

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2. Previous Minutes - The Chair invited members to comment on the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting, held on Thursday 8th November 2012. Members confirmed that the minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of Student Voice Committees

All sets of minutes approved.

5. Ideas

Idea 1 – Radio Caley evening access – Colin Stone, Station Manager

C Stone introduced the idea, saying that presenters whose shows occurred after the SA barrier had been closed in the evening had been having issues accessing the studio. He asked that volunteers' student cards be activated to open NH119 door which is controlled by a swipe card lock.

Questions/Comments: - D Borrett provided an update after speaking to some students involved, who said that security would keep the barrier open provided they knew what times they could lock up. It was highlighted that this meant the Games Room would also be open.

- S Wylie said that students could already get cards activated to access Faith and Belief Centre, so it would be a similar process.

Improvement: N Lowden to take discussions on this matter further.

Outcome: Members voted in favour unanimously.

Action: N Lowden to investigate solutions and report back

Idea 2 – GCU Student Portal – Carla Fyfe, Student President

C Fyfe introduced the idea, saying there was currently no central online space for GCU students, no community feel online. She wanted the views of members as to what they would like to see when GCU re-examine this.

16:50 - C Shaw entered the meeting

Questions/comments: - a lengthy discussion ensued. It was agreed that if GCU Learn was used to its full potential, it should be able to do all the things mentioned in the idea. It was originally intended as an all-in-one portal.

- Some students who said they already found GCU Learn invaluable expressed concern if it changed too much it would be a completely different experience for them.

17:00 - E McLean entered the meeting

- It was generally agreed that students have too many passwords at the moment which can cause difficulties and frustration.
- D Borrett suggested Officers conduct a review of why GCU Learn hasn't provided the range of functions it was supposed to. C Fyfe said that such a review should be up to GCU rather than the SA. S Wylie said the issue should be raised with GCU staff to get a better idea of the situation before entering consultation with students. Others thought that students should be consulted throughout the process so their voices were heard.

Improvement: Student President to discuss the concept of the student portal further with students and staff.

Outcome: Members voted in favour unanimously.

Action: C Fyfe to liaise with university and report back

Idea 3 – Supporting Equal Marriage – Carla Fyfe, Student President

C Fyfe introduced the idea, saying that GCUSA should be at the forefront when it comes to campaigning for equality. She said this was particularly timely due to the upcoming debate and vote in the House of Commons.

Questions/Comments:

- P Dolan asked what form the support would take/what would be involved. C Fyfe explained that it was more a symbolic support as the LGBT Society/Convenor/Engagement Intern were already campaigning on the ground. E Hollow (LGBT Convenor) confirmed that lots of campaigning had already taken place, but this would back that up on paper as the official stance of the SA.
- I. Ajiero said if the idea was introduced, he would not personally support it and wanted to be disassociated with it. S Wylie reminded members that they were there to represent their respective groups and classes rather than just their own views. She said that all GCU students deserved to feel comfortable and represented on campus, that GCUSA already had a strong Equality and Diversity Policy and that she would encourage all members to vote in favour of this idea.
- R. Habib said it was a complicated issue with religious implications and that it was unclear what the law would look like. C Shaw said that the Government's legislation would be non-binding on religious institutions, and the so-called 'triple lock' protections were briefly explained by E McLean.
- A number of members expressed the view that it was ridiculous that such a debate was even needed any more.
- C Shaw highlighted that NUS, of which GCUSA are a member, were already in support of equal marriage.
- E Hollow said that passing this idea was really to solidify GCUSA's support and that not a lot would change regarding day-to-day-activities.

Outcome: Members voted 19 for, 2 against. Idea was accepted.

Action: E Hollow and LGBT group to continue campaigning

Idea 4 – Transport Policy – N Lowden, VP Activities

N Lowden introduced the idea, explaining that clubs would no longer be able to use minibuses to travel in Glasgow postcodes unless they applied for permission. He conceded that for some clubs, such as Horse-riding, this wasn't possible due to location.

Questions/comments: - E McLean asked how often such requests were made; they were made every day.

- Public transport was the alternative means suggested; D Borrett commented that this may save both clubs and SA money.
- N Lowden highlighted that currently the SA pay for rent and insurance of vehicles and clubs only pay for petrol. M Stephenson suggesting making clubs pay full cost. N Lowden said this would have negative impact on club finances.

Outcome: Members voted in favour unanimously.

Action: N Lowden to implement changes

6. Reports

Executive:

Student President – C Shaw asked for an update on having a bar on campus, which was mentioned at first Student Voice meeting. A short discussion followed on what research was being done into this and what students had been saying through National Student Survey Q23 - there was a continuing issue of students not identifying with GCUSA by the word 'union'. To a question raised about how strongly students were asking for a bar, E McLean advised that it was a recurring theme from almost all student feedback for many years and that it was quite possibly the single biggest issue raised by students. It was generally agreed that a bar on campus was desirable, particularly for mature students/liberation groups who may not feel comfortable at 'official venues'. C Fyfe said that if a bar was opened, it was envisaged to fit more with coffee-culture style than a pub/club. C Shaw queried this proposal and what prompted this approach, considering the research was said to be at an early stage. C Fyfe advised that research was ongoing and all views would be considered. She also stressed that she was keen to keep student voice updated as much as possible as discussions progressed, and she was confident a bar would happen but not this year.

Action: C Fyfe to report back on discussions

17:40 – S McDade left the meeting

All other Executive reports approved.

SA Accounts: - C Shaw asked about an under-spend in the Sports accounts. C Fyfe explained that a couple of trips had been cancelled. N Lowden said the money would be spend on more events throughout the year, including an 'end of year fling'. C Stone raised a question and was advised that this would be addressed in AOCB.

7. Elections and Referendum

K Ward gave a brief introduction to the elections and referendum that would be taking place in February. He asked for members to email him with comments on what the referendum question regarding the 'Right To Education Campaign' should look like.

Action: Members to provide feedback by email

8. Student Voice Elections

No member nominated to be Deputy Chair of Student Voice – position remains vacant.

9. Affiliations

The following societies were ratified and are now affiliated with GCUSA:

- Better Together
- GCU Students for Scottish Independence
- GCU Students for Malawi
- Mental Health Nursing Society
- Students Socialist Society

10. AOCB

R Habib questioned the need for every sports club to require 10 members to be affiliated. Some will naturally be bigger than others. He also pointed out that some members give their £30 membership to larger clubs but also attend smaller ones. N Lowden said that this issue had been on his manifesto and that it was something he was working on putting into place for next year.

Action: N Lowden to implement and report back

C Stone said that Radio Caley had bought two new computers. They were initially told by GCUSA that they could pay for these in instalments over four years, but were now being told that they would have to pay in full up-front. The member expressed that this could have a negative effect on cash flow for the current and future committee. N Lowden and C Fyfe both said that they hadn't heard anything about this but would look into the issue.

Action: N Lowden to investigate and report back

Meeting closed at 18:25

**Date of next meeting
TBA**



Minutes of the Fourth Caledonian Student Voice of session 2012/13

Meeting held on 15th March, 2013, at 1.30pm in NH208 – Students' Association.

1. Sign In:

Present: E. McLean (Chair); C. Fyfe; D. Borrett; S. Wylie; N. Lowden; M. Lamb; N. Clark; E. Todorova; G Watson; I Ajiero; R. Okojie; PL Choo; R Amaehule; A Ross; M Stephenson; S McDade; C. White; A. Duffy; R Barclay; C. Shaw; J Gaughan

Apologies: E Hollow; A Scott; M Akbar; P Dolan; C Stone; C Coulter

In attendance: Kevin Ward; Julie Price

Absent: A Law; K McKeown; R Hewitt; J Morrison; E Morrow; C Gallagher; Y Mann; U Saleem; C Murphy; G Pechurin; J Collins; A Biney; J Ellis; D Pollard; RI Habib; A Adewoyin; M Mallela; H Sikander; S Srinivasan; J Turley

Members who were absent without apologies have received an automatic Caution from Student Voice. Any member who receives three Cautions will automatically face a Vote of No Confidence at which members of Voice may decide to remove them from their position.

2. Previous Minutes - The Chair invited members to comment on the minutes of the previous Student Voice meeting, held on Thursday 31st January 2013. Members confirmed that the minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising

a) Radio Caley evening access – VPA said this matter was being taken forward by GCUSA staff.

b) GCU Student Portal – VPE said that she had met with Principal and the GCU are currently spending a lot on I.C.T. She said current provisions were underutilised and were glad that GCUSA highlighted the issue. No further action required from GCUSA at this time but matter is now on GCU's agenda.

c) Bar on campus – VPA said the matter was on-going

d) Allocation of membership fees to Sports Clubs – VPA said sports policy is changing; starting to develop smaller clubs and help them to raise more money.

e) Radio Caley computers – VPA said that GCUSA staff advised that there was no point carrying debt forward when the station had the funds available to pay.

f) Elections and Referenda outcomes – VPE welcomed newly elected officers and other successfully elected students.

4. Minutes of Student Voice Committees

None.

5. Affiliations (moved from Item 9)

Labour Society, Debating Society and Amnesty International Society all affiliated.

6. Ideas

Idea 1 – bar on campus – E McLean (D Borrett took the Chair)

E McLean said this idea was presented a year ago at Student Voice but was rejected as it was agreed it would be taken forward informally instead. He proposed setting fixed timescales for consultation and a referendum to back up the popular view that students want a bar on campus.

The incoming VP Education, N Clark, said he was happy to commit to a formal consultation in the next academic year.

(S Wylie took the Chair)

D Borrett said that the Student Officer Team had thought seriously about this issue throughout the year and have gathered evidence on the students' desire for a bar from National Student Survey and Red Brick research. She said that holding a referendum and putting a fixed timescale on plans would be difficult though as there are a lot of factors to consider.

M Stephenson said he understood the reasons for not wanting a referendum but felt that it would be good way to engage with the wider student body. E Mclean said there had always been evidence of the students' will and that there would be no harm in passing something binding.

C Fyfe and C Shaw arrived 1.15

Improvements – C Shaw suggested removing references to dates as forcing a timescale could make things difficult. E McLean rejected this improvement.

PL Choo arrived 1.20

C Fyfe suggested Improvement to keep 2013/14 consultation and 2014/15 budget plan but to reject a binding referendum. E McLean rejected this improvement.

K Ward was asked to speak for clarification. Stated that Student Voice could not vote on budgets but could mandate to bring the issue to the Trustee Board.

E Mclean suggested improvement to remove the section on budgets and bring this to the Trustee Board.

Vote on improvement – to remove mandating for a referendum from the Idea

14 for, 3 against, 1 abstention

Referendum duly removed from the Idea

Vote on improved Idea:

12 for, 0 against, 1 abstention

Idea passed with Improvement

Idea 2 – Election “Question Time” and manifestos – C Fyfe

C Fyfe stated her belief that manifestos are important and that “Question Time” did not work during elections this year as it didn’t seem crucial and lacked passion.

J Gaughan asked what would happen in a nominee didn’t want to participate or didn’t submit a manifesto. C Fyfe said it would be referred to the Elections Committee for their consideration.

K Ward stated that as neither “Question Time” nor manifestos had ever been compulsory in the past, this would be uncharted territory for the Elections Committee.

C Shaw suggested timetabling elections to coincide with Caledonian Conference or Student Summit to give a platform to Question Time where there would already be an audience. D Borrett said this could be brought forward to the Elections Committee.

M Stephenson said that the Students’ Association should look at using different forms of media to communicate manifestos.

E Todorova said that choosing how best to campaign was up to the individual and that it should be their choice. She thought this Idea was restrictive and would take away that free choice.

Vote: 18 for, 2 against, no abstentions

Idea passed

Idea 3 – Portfolio refresh consultation – N Clark

The proposer said that the University was looking to introduce long-thin modules but was doing so with very little student consultation – only one session with less than 100 students. His Idea was to mandate Officers to lobby the University to undertake an open and extensive consultation process.

D Borrett question how the SA would do this and said the plan would need to be more explicit. Ways of engaging students on the matter would need to be identified. N Clark said the Idea was to give students more information in order to decide whether they wanted this type of module.

E Todorova encouraged students to vote for this Idea as she said the University might be in breach of its commitment to student movement, for example opportunities to study abroad.

M Lamb said that further consultation dates had been planned for April but with few students on campus it would not happen until later.

M Stephenson said that the School of Health already have these types of modules and work around any issues they cause.

Improvement - D Borrett suggested mandating VPE to work with School Officers on this matter and work with them towards fulfilling the rest of the issues raised in the Idea

Improvement and Idea accepted unanimously

A Duffy arrived 1.40

Idea 4 – Updating Sports Policy – Amy Ross

A Ross highlighted changes to the policy and explained the reasons for these.

N Lowden said the change in membership cost hadn't yet been confirmed as it had still to go to the Sports Committee AGM.

M Stephenson said that the prices will help but that the Sports Committee had voted against splitting fees as had previously been discussed.

E McLean asked about issue surrounding disaffiliation. A Ross confirmed that clubs would be called in for meetings before it got to that final stage and that they could always reaffiliate once the quota had been reached.

R Amaehule left meeting 1.55

VOTE: 16 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions

Idea 5 – changes to Students' Association By-laws –Student Officer Team/Student Voice Chair

Due to the number of changes, the discussion was split into individual changes to be voted for or against.

- 1) Rename Education Policy Group to "Team Education" – accepted
- 2) Drop term "Convenor" in favour of "Officer" – accepted
- 3) Create Wellbeing Committee – accepted
- 4) Create Events Council and Events Council Chairperson – accepted
- 5) Assign responsibility for leading on Commonwealth Games engagement to VP Activities

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M Lamb said that the event wasn't just about sports but also culture and this wasn't in the VPA's job remit. C Shaw said that the Presidents remit was already massive and they may not have the time to lead on this in addition to existing work. He said this would be a beneficial addition to the VPA role, which is quite operational. S Wylie said that the VPA could delegate work out to other Officers, but would be the first point of contact.

VOTE: 13 for, 4 against, 1 abstention – approved

6) Exclusive use of term “Executive Committee” for full time officers – accepted

7) Improvements to definitions of Trustee Board and Appointments Committee –

Suggested changes in this section require approval from the Trustee Board and should be taken to them for consideration.

8) Update the Executive Committee Remit – accepted with some additional text

9) Remove Student President from being automatic delegate to NUS Conference and NUS Scotland Conference –

VOTE: 1 for, 15 against, 1 abstention – not accepted

10) Rename Welcome Weeks as Freshers and Refreshers Weeks – accepted

11) Allow Chair to invite staff to attend Student Voice and to call extraordinary meetings – accepted

12) Reserve places on University committees where Executive Committee member already sits for Student Voice members –

Vote – for 2, against 11 – not accepted

13) Amend magazine editor remit to reflect changes to magazine – accepted

14) Student Voice to be annually informed of School Officer remuneration – accepted

15) Reduce number of cautions required for Student Voice no confidence vote from three to two –

Improvement – if member submits Idea and then doesn’t attend and fails to give apologies, automatic no confidence should be triggered – accepted

Idea accepted

Committee agreed to halt discussion of Ideas to allow for Student Voice elections

7. Elections

Nominations:

Student Voice Chair - E McLean, C Shaw

Student Voice Returning Officer - E McLean, C Shaw

Senate places – PL Choo, N Clark, J Gaughan, E McLean, M Stephenson

Learning and Teaching Subcommittee – J Gaughan, E McLean, C Shaw, M Stephenson

Results:

Student Voice Chair – C Shaw
Student Voice Returning Officer – E McLean

Senate Place – Neill Clark

Learning and Teaching Subcommittee – Cameron Shaw

6. Ideas (resumed)

Idea 6 – Bethlehem twinning – C Fyfe

The Student President said that, as directed by a previous meeting of Student Voice, she had consulted on the twinning agreement and brought the proposal back to request approval.

VOTE: 12 for, 0 against, 2 abstained

Idea passed

Idea 7 – Cash handling procedures – Michael Stephenson

M Stephenson said this Idea was written to protect GCUSA members who require to carry money to pay in at the Welcome Desk/Finance Office.

Improvement – to mandate the Executive Committee to set up a working group with a specific remit to review cash handling procedures.

Idea accepted unanimously

Idea 8 – Student Voice in the Students' Association – E McLean

The proposer said that Student Voice should be prioritised for GCUSA room bookings as it is the highest democratic body in the Association and that it currently is being prevented by block bookings made for events at the beginning of term.

PL Choo spoke as participant of a number of activities and said that she was sure groups would be happy to change rooms as long as alternative provisions were made and communicated to attendees.

M Lamb suggested setting dates for Student Voice at the beginning of the year to ensure the space was booked. A Ross said that dates should allow for flexibility to suit members. M Stephenson said that organising meetings at late notice also proved difficult for members.

VOTE – for 12, against 0, abstentions 2

8. Honorary Life Memberships

Three people were nominated for Honorary Life Memberships to GCUSA:

Carla Fyfe; Sinead Wylie, Stephen McLean

All Honorary Memberships accepted.

A Ross left meeting 3.30

9. Reports

VP Wellbeing:

J Gaughan asked for more information on smoking shelters - S Wylie said the matter was still being discussed in a joint consultation between herself and GCU.

Student President:

E McLean asked for an update on the academic calendar change issue and what was being done to fight on behalf of students. S Wylie said the Executive Committee had met with Principal a few days before to raise students' concerns. M Stephenson said that the Officers had been given a mandate to lobby the university following the outcome of the referendum.

The Officers said that they had only received the university's proposals less than a week before. Now that they had a clearer idea of what was happening they could better decide the next step. C Shaw asked how this would be communicated to students. It was confirmed there would be a special all-student email sent out about this issue.

PL Choo and J Tomney left at 3.40

All reports were approved

10. Closing the Loop

a) Student Officer engagement – Officers fed back that they felt dedicated a set proportion of their time to student engagement had been beneficial and that their final engagement would be about the possibility of a bar on campus.

b) Mature Student induction pack and group/society – S Wylie said that the VP Education would look into this over summer before handover. E McLean said this was initially raised at Student Voice in October and members agreed that there was cause for concern about the lack of progress.

c) GCU room booking fees for societies – S Wylie said that the university had a new person in post and that a document was being written with guidance on this matter for students.

d) Freshers Week income – N Lowden said that there had been a £1000 shortfall as not all stalls had been booked.

e) bank account interest – this issue was not discussed as it did not fall within the remit of Student Voice.

11. Ideas Forum Response

No formal response was produced by the Executive Committee

12. AOCB

N Lowden expressed his disappointment that his Idea relating to bake sales was not accepted by the Chair because of it was submitted after the deadline and asked how it was decided what late submissions were accepted. E McLean said that late submissions were at the discretion of the Chair.

S Wylie informed the committee that GCUSA had successfully achieved Gold Level for the second year in a row in the Green Impact Awards and had also won Best Non-Trading Union of the Year.

Meeting closed at 15:50

**Date of next meeting
TBA**