

SRC Minutes

Date: 19/11/19

Attendees

[REDACTED]

Apologies

[REDACTED]

Housekeeping:

- [REDACTED] welcomed members and speakers to the meeting. Noted that there were larger numbers in attendance than the previous meeting.
- Apologies are noted.

Minutes from the Last Meeting:

- Minutes of the last SRC were circulated via email to members before the meeting. Approved by members in the meeting.

Open business:

- [REDACTED] – has been focused on housing campaign, reiterated that there is a need for a push for HC Survey. Canvassing with queries about rent, discussed the state of present rent rates not just university-controlled rents but also private accommodation, wanted to consider a rent freeze agreement of some sorts- however will not be known until next SRC.
- [REDACTED] – provided an update on the Relax Trolley Scheme and how it has been a success in previous semester. Discussed the uni court climate __ explained that in April a court will decide on the state of a climate emergency, urged that information about this be brought to students attention.
- [REDACTED] – gave an update on her activities- talk of small self- care workshops being set up, for it to be a safe space whilst being creative has applied for small grants. Update on Vintage Fair, clothes and merchandise has been sourced and a date is in the works, simply waiting on pending paper works. Explains the need for more focus to be taken by the SA on Abertay being a more environmentally friendly university. Society Award Scheme- claims that there is currently an issue with popularity, to include a new kind of system however this is just a WIP.
- *SLT Update*— [REDACTED] delivers a brief overview of the previous SLT minutes. Noted that [REDACTED] has resigned from SLT due to conflicting workloads. Minutes of last SLT approved by members.

Reserved Business

- Motion: Abertay SA – Private Housing
 - [REDACTED] speaks for motion of HC. Discusses that most Abertay students living within Dundee rent from private letting agents and private landlords and that many students have come to SA seeking advice on how to deal with housing issues within the private sector. Housing workshop held in OC 2019 by SA found numerous issues around housing conditions in the priv sector, are as follows- rising rents, flats in disrepair, issues regarding deposits and

dodgy/unexpected fees. Wishes to campaign on the issues students face related to private accommodation- do this by- canvassing/ door-knocking to find out more on the issues students face, organising workshops/ pop-ups to further explore, plan and give advice.

- No Speaking against the Motion—However ■ speaks for an amendment to the motion.
 - ■- to erase the idea of door knocking as several issues can arise around it such as causes anxiety within students, can come across as intrusive and insensitive, worries that it can look bad on the SA rep. argues that she personally most likely wouldn't answer the door if a stranger knocked on her door and thus worries that many students wouldn't either- essentially negatively effecting the research outcome <<<
 - ■ then speaks against the proposed amendment << understands the anxieties of not just students on he other side of the door but also the SA Officers who would be conducting the canvassing but argues that it gives the platform of speaking to students 1 on 1, argues that it makes the SA visible and as information gathering goes it is a vital tool. >>
- Vote in terms of the amendment
- In favour- 7
- Amendment to the motion passed
- Against- 4
- Vote in terms of the motion
- In favour- 10
 - Against- 0
- Motion as a whole passed
- Abstain- 1
- Motion: Abertay SA Against the Marketisation of Education
- ■ speaks for motion. Discusses that higher education has increasingly become more expensive right across the UK. That even in Scotland, while tuition is free for home and EU students this is not the case for international or RoUK students. the UK government has introduced a series of changes to Higher Education, as a part of these changes, the National Student Survey is given weight in a university's (TEF) award, last academic year, the University went through a series of course cuts, not long after that, structural changes which led to university staff being made redundant.
 - The National Student Survey is issued to only final year students at Abertay- does not reflect years 1-3 and has no reference to non-academic student services, student accommodation or extracurricular student opportunities therefore may produce biases results. SRC has backed a boycott of the National Student Survey for the last 2 years. Argues that the NSS is going towards a marketized state and that whilst it is a difficult position it does not address students as a whole.
 - <<■ speaks against the motion- argues that the SA are not actually involved in the promotion of the survey, should not boycott the survey but

acknowledges the harm of marketisation, should instead work with the university to promote it in a way that could be helpful, argues that we should not jump on the bandwagon and boycott simply because other organisations are as student satisfaction sits at around 92%.

- <█ amendment- NSS should be promoted and should be done in a way where students are urged to give honest answers.
- >>█ speaks against amendment—disappointed, the survey itself denies certain facts and therefore does not reveal the truth, there are definite links between NSS and TEF, Scottish students' tuitions can't be raised but international/RoUK tuition can be, need to protect them.

– Vote in terms of the amendment

- In favour- 2
- Against- 4

Amendment not passed

- Abstain- 5

– Vote in terms of motion

- In Favour- 5
- Against- 2

Motion passed

- Abstain- 5

– Motion: Out with the old

- █ speaks for the motion- argues that when motions are passed by a majority of SRC they become SA Policy and that it is the Executive Committee's responsibility to speak on what they have done to enforce these policies. Believes that policies are not being satisfactorily implemented as a result of failing on behalf of the exec officer or a failing of the policy itself. If that is the case, then the exec should raise this during SRC meetings.
- No amendments brought forward.

– Vote in terms of motion

- In favour- 10

Motion passed

- Abstain- 1

– Bike Stops and Shelters

- █ speaks for motion. Acknowledges that there are bike shelters dotted around the campus these often fill up quickly especially during deadline season and therefore there is a need for more. Understands that there may be issues with funding but believes that it is eco friendly and that there is a demand for it from students. A survey is needed to show student demand in order to get in touch with estates. Pictures to be taken during peak times.
- █ happy to back the motion

– Mental Health Working Groups

