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Students’ Representative Council

Minutes

Air Bar, 18th of April 2023

Attendance

Audrey Oko (BME), Christine Odaro (General), Andre Costas (Environment and Sustainability), Victoria Simpson (Mature), Bailey Hope (LGBT+), Mavis Whytock (Disabilities).

School Presidents

Liam Brown (Business), Dominic Lee (Medicine/ SRC Vice-Chairperson), Ayush Laddha (Dentistry).

Executive

Nyasha (Ash) Mutembwa (President), Obiozor Okoro (Vice President of Representation),

Guests/Observers

## Ian Bueger (newly elected IMC 23-24), Clyde Williamson (Student), Maitane Sandonis Perez (Student), Cameron Irons (Policy and Research Officer), Candy Preater (Advice and Support Coordinator), Manaswi Budhathoki (newly elected VPC 23-24)

## Minute-taker

Loukia Morari (Policy and Research Officer).

Apologies

Hasan Mahmood (Vice President of Fundraising), Simone Bairstow (Health Sciences), Keith Winters (Rectors Accessor), Jazmine Bennett (Vice President of Community), Zining Li (Vice President of Student Activities), Sai Rakshith Gupta Somisetty (Housing),Parissa Robinson (SRC Chairperson), Sebastian Palma (DJCAD), Priya (Learning and Teaching), Clara Seyfried (SHSL), Eamonn Custance (General), Aaron Fernandez (Employability), Prosper Dzitse (Taught Postgraduate), Amarachi Ejim (Vice president of Student Wellbeing), Aishwarya Jayakumar (Women’s), Lea Salles (Student Voice Support Officer), Helena Drylie (Business), Louise Warburton (Life Sciences), Leia Ainscough (Science and Engineering).

Absent

Mahh Ashraf (General), Bhuvana Sai Rheddy Komaragunta (Equality, Diversity and Welfare), Arshman Rehman Sahito (Facilities), Talha Iqbal Shahid (International), Adarsh Giri Warrier (1st Year).

Meeting Introduction

1. **Vice-Chairs Welcome**

1.1 The Vice-Chair welcomed the council members, read out the apologies and announced that the council did not reach quorum, fewer than 13 voting members as per Byelaw 2. Therefore, he stated, no motions could be voted on during the meeting.

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

2.1 There were no objections to the minutes of the last meeting.

1. **Action Tracker**

3.1 There were no objections to the action tracker.

Discussion

1. **Ceilidh Proposal**

4.1 The Vice-Chair introduced Clyde Williamson to present this motion who was requesting funding for the first ever DJCAD degree show Ceilidh for all students held in the City Square outside Caird Hall on the 20th of May from 7-9pm. The event has support and been approved by the following: Dundee City Council, DJCAD Events Team, DJCAD Contemporary Art Practice Society, UOD Traditional Music Society, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society’s (RSCDS) Dundee Branch, and the UOD Scottish Country Dance Society. They continued by informing the council that 2023 is the centenary of simultaneously: Caird Hall in Dundee, which is the very walls that frame the city square; also, the RSCDS, of which Dundee is a major branch; and the UOD Mountaineering Club. The event will also be an opportunity for money and food item collection for Dundee & Angus foodbank. He argued that it would look good for the university to actively acknowledge these Dundonian centenaries and engage with the wider community. He concluded that this event directly acknowledges these 3 celebrations through traditional music and dance and is the perfect opportunity for university students to be involved in celebrating the city's history.

4.2 Clyde clarified that the event would be open to all students and free to attend. He then raised the importance of inclusive marketing, integration and collaboration with DUSA societies to involve students across the 8 academic schools, refraining from a “DJCAD only” event. Liam volunteered to help with the marketing of the event to make it more accessible for students outwith DJCAD.

4.3 Bailey recognised that the event was an opportunity to bridge the gap between DJCAD and other schools within the university by inviting all students, championing that DJCAD is for everyone. Clyde then noted that he hoped this event would act as a blueprint for contemporary art practice to continue its legacy for years to come.

4.4 The Vice-Chair raised the issue of quorum; this motion would not be voted on. They then recognised that the next council meeting is arranged for the 16th of May, I.e., the next opportunity for the motion to be voted on as a council. He stated that he did not know how long it took to access SRC funds so it could be too late and questioned the feasibility of accessing the funding. They then recommended that an alternative meeting [with an appropriate attendance] should be arranged to pass these motions in a timely manner. Andre stated that funding, from his understanding, could be approved without bringing forth a motion, Obiozor echoed this.

4.5 They then asked those present if there were any objections to the VPR looking into accessing the funds for this motion, there were not.

1. **Professional Photography Session**

5.1 The Vice-Chair invited Liam to present this motion that proposed two professional photography events over the academic year for soon to be graduate students to prepare for graduate jobs, linked in etc. Proposed dates were in September and May.

5.2 Bailey suggested an alternative date [March/April] for the May session would be more suitable for the average student schedule. Ayush supported this motion and recognised its importance following his consultation with students within the Dentistry school.

5.3 The Vice-Chair then asked those present if there were any objections

1. **Supporting Scottish Refugee Council**

6.1 The Vice-chair asked councilors to draw their attention to the Teams channel with further information (JPG image) provided by the Refugee Council who are looking for fundraising support.

6.2 The Vice-Chair said he would send this out to representatives due to the absences in the council.

1. **Post-censure motion update**

7.1 The Vice-chair invited Obiozor to update on the post-censure motion passed at the last SRC meeting. She stated that this was to be discussed at the latest board meeting. However, she noted that unfortunately the meeting was cancelled. Ash updated that there is a meeting arranged for the 24th of April with the UCU (University and College Union).

Standing Items

1. **Sub-committee Updates**

8.1 Victoria; ISE swimming pool and DUSA proposing dates for family swimming/tea and coffee sessions. Paul from ISE has been working with her to arrange this and is looking into subsidising costs and making it free for student families.

8.2 Mavis; tea session for students with disabilities and requested assistance from DUSA to facilitate this event.

**9. SRC Question time**

9.1 Bailey asked in future if quorum is not met can meetings be cancelled, the vice-chair agreed with this but recognised that the apologies were sent too late, and it could not be communicated on such short notice. They then urged councilors to provide apologies at least a few days before the meetings to avoid shortened meetings in the future.

9.2 The VPR introduced Ian Bueger as the newly elected Independent Member of Court.

9.3 9.4 The Vice – Chair adjourned the meeting early.