

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2007

Present: Lady Catto (Convener), Mr S Cannon, Mr D Elliott, Mr J Fairwood, Mr J Hardey, Dr WF Long, Ms C Macaslan, Ms L Macdonald, Mr C MacKenzie, and Mr R Miller, with Mr L Forsyth, Mr RW Murray, Mr M Seed, and Dr T Webb, with Ms YS Gordon (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor G J A Burgess, and Professor C H W Gane.

9. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2006 were approved.

10. MATTERS ARISING

10.1 Audio Visual Hire (minute 2.2 refers)

It was noted that the issue of charging for AV equipment hire had been resolved. There would be no charge made to students unless the equipment was damaged in any way.

10.2 Radio Station (minute 4.3i refers)

It was noted that the radio station was almost ready to begin broadcasting.

10.3 The University's Strategic Plan (minute 4.3ii refers)

It was noted that the offer still stood for the Students' Association to input to the revisions to the University's Strategic Plan. The President of the Students' Association was a member of the Committee which would take forward the revisions to the plan.

11. REMIT AND COMPOSITION

11.1 The Committee considered the revised remit and composition of the Committee.
(Copy filed as SAC/190207/07).

11.2 The Vice-Principal (Learning and Teaching) reported that the main change to the remit was in section one which was now 'all encompassing' rather than listing individual parts of the Students' Association separately. The composition of the Committee had also been revised.

11.3 The Committee agreed to recommend to the University Management Group/Senate Business Committee/University Court that the revisions to the remit and composition be approved, subject to a minor amendment to the Composition to say "five other student sabbatical officers nominated by the President of the Students' Association, after appropriate consultation".

Action: Clerk

12. STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

- 12.1 The Committee received a report from the President of the Students' Association.
(Copy filed as SAC/190207/08).

Union Bar

- 12.2 It was agreed that a group, led by the Director of Campus Services and the President of the Students' Association, should work together to try to find a solution to the current problems with the Union Bar, which could include a possible joint project with the Robert Gordon University.

Action: LF/R Miller

Hub User Group

- 12.3 It was noted that monthly meetings of the User Group would be held from now on and *ad hoc* meetings as necessary. The Clerk of Works would also be invited to attend future meetings as appropriate.

Locations for Set-Building

- 12.4 With regard to venues for set building for productions in the future, where a venue did not seem to be available, the Deputy Director of Estates would be asked to provide a temporary solution. All buildings in the University would be considered for flexible usage in the future.

Credits for Voluntary Work

- 12.5 The Committee received information on the MASIV scheme currently running at Reading University whereby students could receive credit on their academic transcript for undertaking voluntary work whilst studying at the University.
(Copy filed as SAC/190207/8a).

- 12.6 It was agreed that the Students' Association should explore other schemes currently running such as at the University of Bath, and bring some firm proposals back to a future meeting of the Committee. This type of scheme fitted in with the employability plan and with personal development planning.

Action: R Miller/CM

Notice Boards

- 12.7 It was noted that the University had identified costs of £10,000 for lockable notice boards across campus and that the Association was to liaise with Estates in taking this forward.

Advertising in Toilets

- 12.8 It was agreed that the Vice-President (Advice and Support) should liaise with the Deputy Director of Estates regarding free HEBS (Health Education Board for Scotland) advertising of such bodies as Niteline.

Action: LM/R Murray

Food Choice in the Hub

- 12.9 It was noted that food sales in the Hub were closely monitored and the least popular food at the moment was the Fast Food outlet. During the Easter vacation the Fast Food outlet would be changed to Green Grub – a healthier option and would feature foods

such as Halal and Kosher.

Recycling

- 12.10 It was noted that increased recycling facilities were to be installed in the Hub including colour-coded recycling bins.

Advertising of Book Ends

- 12.11 The Committee agreed that where possible, it would be useful to advertise the existence of Book Ends, located in the Hub, in all course guides. However some course co-ordinators would not agree to advertise older editions of books as these editions might point to out of date information or wrong page numbers.

Action: Clerk/CM

Event Flyers

- 12.12 It was hoped that the introduction of plasma screens and notice boards would replace the need for paper flyers to be printed which created litter. The Vice-President (Advice and Support) agreed to consider a weekly edition of a flyer, covering all events in the Association, which could be distributed within the Hub.

Action: LM/LF

Wednesday Afternoons

- 12.13 It was proposed that the Students' Association should survey the student body regarding participation rates in activities on a Wednesday afternoon. The policy at the moment was that classes on a Wednesday afternoon were not compulsory. If classes were on offer on a Wednesday afternoon Course Co-ordinators also had to provide alternative times for those that wished to partake in sport and recreation activities.

Action: R Miller

Student Show

- 12.14 It was noted that although the University had withdrawn its support of £1600 for the Student Show, the University continued to support students in other activities such as providing £100k for the Union Bar, £17k for a new boat and £10k for the student radio production.

Area of Studies Conveners

- 12.15 It was noted that the Students' Association had been reviewing the possibility of creating a new convenership for postgraduate research students. It was also noted that the membership of the University Committee on Teaching and Learning was to be reviewed to possibly include additional postgraduate representation.

Procedure for Withdrawal of Degree Programmes

- 12.16 It was noted that a procedure was already in place for the withdrawal of courses and programmes through the Schools to the College Teaching and Learning Committees, to the Academic Standards Committees and the Senate. Students were represented on all of these Committees. Programmes could also not be withdrawn until the last student on the programme had completed. There would however be no new admissions.

- 12.17 It was agreed that the Students' Association would contact the Registry immediately if they were aware of any proposed programme withdrawal that was not following the above procedure.

Flexible Social Space

- 12.18 It was noted that the President of the Students' Association was already a member of the Information Strategy Committee but that the Vice-President (Education and Employability) could also attend to raise the issue of flexible social space for students.

13. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- 13.1 It was noted that for the next meeting of the Committee the Vice-Principal (Learning and Teaching) would prepare a paper on ways to provide support for overseas students. The paper would be prepared in consultation with the Students' Association.

Action: CM/R Miller

14. SMOKING IN HALLS OF RESIDENCE

- 14.1 It was noted that current policy was that students could smoke in the Halls of Residence bedrooms but not in communal areas. A number of complaints had been received from Hillhead with regard to the smell of smoke in the Halls.

- 14.2 It was proposed that the Students' Association survey students in Halls on whether to ban smoking in Halls of Residence altogether.

Action: R Miller

15. UNITE HALLS OF RESIDENCE

- 15.1 It was noted that the new Halls of Residence in Dunbar Street were to have communal living areas. The President of the Students' Association was a member of the Project Board taking this project forward.

16. TERMLY REPORTS

- 16.1 The Committee noted termly reports from the Students' Association and Directors of Student and Academic Services and Campus Services.

(Copies filed as SAC/190207/09-11)

17. STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE STATUS APPLICATION

- 17.1 The Committee noted that the OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) had written to the Students' Association indicating that all outstanding issues had been resolved in respect of the application for charitable status. They were now to enter the Association in the Scottish Charity Register and allocate a charity number once they had received a signed copy of the revised constitution together with a copy of the meeting note to say that it had been duly adopted. The Association acknowledged the support of the University and the assistance received from the Senior Policy Adviser.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 18.1 The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 28 May 2007 at 2.00 p.m. in the Court Room, University Office.