

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2008

Present: Lady Catto (Convener), Professor GJA Burgess, Mr S Cannon, Mr G Cox, Ms A Fraser, Mr J Hardey, Ms H MacKay and Ms S Sithamparanathan, with Mrs J Chalmers, Mr SV Duggan, Mr N Edwards, Mr L Forsyth, Mr D Mckay, Mr RW Murray, Mr M Seed and Ms YS Gordon (Clerk)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor CHW Gane, Ms C Hobson, Mr J Leiper, Professor WF Long and Ms C Macaslan

15. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2008 were approved subject to a minor change to the heading of Minute 9.1 from "Lighting in Seaton Park" to "Lighting in Don Street".

(copy filed as SAC/260508/22)

16. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

17. Audit Report for the Students' Association

17.1 The Committee considered the internal Audit Report for the Students' Association, dated March 2008.

(copy filed as SAC/260508/23)

17.2 It was reported that the Audit Committee had asked that the University Secretary work with the incoming and outgoing Sabbatical Officers to improve the management response to the recommendations in the Report, mainly concerning financial procedures and health & safety issues.

17.3 The Students' Association Manager accepted the comments made by the Auditors noting that some recommendations had been dealt with immediately and others would take longer.

17.4 The Convener requested an update on progress at the next meeting of the Committee in September.

Action: SC

18. Students' Association

18.1 The Committee considered a paper on Student Engagement Space, and received a presentation on the same from the Sabbatical Officers.

(copy filed as SAC/260508/24)

- 18.2 It was noted that the paper and presentation aimed to provide the rationale for additional student engagement space from the SA perspective. While The Hub was an excellent facility, students did not feel ownership of it and it had restricted hours closing at 8 p.m. A new venue, such as (say) the Butchart Recreational Centre, would provide a large multi-functional facility including large multi-disciplinary space for miscellaneous activities (fairs, events, displays, ceremonies, meetings, training, rehearsals, performances); a games zone; bar and café area, area for entertainments – bands and dancefloor; space for the student media centre, including the radio station; it could house sports and equipment and performing arts equipment; all the sabbatical offices and it already has a reception.
- 18.3 The Committee thanked the SA for their presentation which was well thought through, exciting and imaginative. The Deputy Director of Estates commented that there were no current immediate plans for the use of the Butchart and although it was not a cheap option it would be technically possible and would of course require the approval of residents in the vicinity.
- 18.4 It was agreed that a strategy on space for the campus as a whole should be considered with the SA and University services complementing each other. It was also agreed that with the approval of the Student Affairs Committee the SA President should present their paper and presentation to the next Capital Expenditure Committee and to the Business Committee.

Action: SA President

19. Support Arrangements at Halls of Residence

- 19.1 The University Secretary reported that rather than establish a short-term Working Group, he had met with the Director of Student Support, the Director of Campus Services and the President of the Students' Association. There was unanimous agreement that the value of students at Hillhead was such that there was a requirement for a full-time dedicated professional liaison officer. The Committee expressed support for this proposal.

20. Rector

- 20.1 The Committee noted that the new Rector, appointed for three years from 1 July 2008, was Stephen Robertson.

21. Termly Reports

- 21.1 The Committee received and noted the` reports as under:

Students' Association

- (a) Reports from Sabbatical Officers *(copy filed as SAC/260508/25)*
- (b) Minute of AGM Meeting of 18 February 2008, together with accounts *(copy filed as SAC/260508/26)*
- (c) Revised Constitution (following the AGM) *(copy filed as SAC/260508/27)*
- (d) Disbursement figures for the SA and the Debater:

The total award to the SA in 2008/09 was £768,162. Based on previous years the allocations with inflation added would be:

SA	£753,703
Debater	£4675
Hall Grant	£5122
Expeditions	£4662

Campus Services

(a) Report on current activities *(copy filed as SAC/260508/28)*

(b) Extract from the Risk Register relating to student accommodation
(copy filed as SAC/260508/29)

Directorate of Student & Academic Services report *(copy filed as SAC/260508/30)*

22. Dates of future meetings

22.1 The Committee noted that future meetings would be held as follows:

Monday 29 September 2008 at 2 p.m. in MR252, MacRobert Building
Monday 10 November 2008 at 2 p.m. in Committee Room 2
Monday 23 February 2009 at 2 p.m. in Committee Room 2
Monday 1 June 2009 at 2 p.m. in Committee Room 2