

**NAPIER STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
STUDENT SENATE MINUTES**

Minutes to meeting held 5.30pm, Tuesday 2nd November 2010, H9 Merchiston.

Rep Hoodies were distributed before the meeting.

Reps were ticked off the attendance register, issued with a programme handbook (where they did not already have one), and given a voting card.

Attendance

Chair/Convenor: Emma Lawrenson (Campaigns and Representation Officer)

Clerk: Maxine Wood (Rep Support Officer – staff member)

Student Executive Committee: Kasia Bylinska (President), Justyna Paslawska (Treasurer and Student Activities Officer), Aaron Miller (Faculty Officer Business School), Dawn Patrick-Brown (Postgraduate Officer)

Sports and Societies Executive: Andrew Wildgoose, Sumit Vassan.

Reps: 176 programme representatives and 12 'ordinary' students were in attendance.

Code

EL = Emma Lawrenson, Convenor and Campaigns and Representation Officer

KB = Kasia Bylinska, NSA President

JP = Justyna Paslawska, NSA Treasurer and Student Activities Officer

Welcome and Introduction

The convenor took Senate through the paper on the role of the Student Executive and Student Senate (SS1/1/10).

RESPECT Campaign & Ground Rules

The convenor took Senate through the paper on RESPECT (SS2/1/10).

Minutes of the Last Meeting – approved

Guest Speakers

1. *Student Involvement in Teaching Learning and Assessment (SILTA) and Advanced Rep Training (ART).*

Jill Robertson (Academic Development) and Jenny Westwood (Confident Futures).

A short presentation on SILTA and ART was provided. Programme Representatives were encouraged to put themselves forward for ART. A sign up sheet and the training programme was available during the meeting.

2. *Higher Education Funding, the National Demonstration and the Browne Report*

Liam Burns (NUS Scotland President) sent his apologies and noted he would be unavoidably late arriving.

3. *Higher Education Funding Crisis (Edinburgh Napier)*

It was agreed the NSA President would postpone her presentation until Liam Burns arrived.

Executive Report – Summer Projects

The NSA President took Senate through the activities undertaken by the Student Executive since the last Senate (May 10).

Freshers Week Delivery (SS4/1/10) was noted as having been very successful. It was noted that a much broader range of events had been offered and there was less focus on alcohol-based events.

The NSA President thanked all the people who volunteered to help out during Freshers Week and in particular Sian Bryant and Aaron Walker who had been given awards for their extraordinary efforts.

Student Involvement Project (SS5/1/10) was noted and the NSA President thanked Emma (Campaigns and Representation Officer) and Maxine (NSA Staff member) for leading this project on behalf of NSA; Governance

Review (SS6/1/10) the NSA President noted that there had been progress on this issue and that this was later on the agenda; Academic Feedback Campaign (SS7/1/10) the NSA President noted that this was later on the agenda.

Executive Report – Strategic Themes

Student Involvement Project – The convenor outlined the 6 key strands of the project and the key areas of NSA involvement (SS5/1/10). It was noted that one of NSA key activities was Advanced Rep Training which had already been outlined by Jill Robertson.

Representation Review – The convenor noted that the Programme Rep Handbook and Programme Rep Induction Training had been reviewed. It was further noted that Research students had been formally incorporated into the NSA representation structure. It was noted that there were now 6 research student rep places at Senate (2 per Faculty).

Enhancement Led Institutional Review (ELIR) – the convenor noted that this year Edinburgh Napier University was being subjected to an external ELIR and that NSA, student representatives and students would be invited to participate in a variety of ways. It was noted that the University's 'reflective analysis' which would form the basis of the ELIR team's approach was available from the NSA website (link provided at the end of Senate). Reps and students were invited to forward any comments to the Senate convenor.

Graduate Attributes – the convenor noted that she was a member of the National Steering Committee. It was noted that Graduate Attributes is a Quality Assurance Agency enhancement theme for session 10/11. More information could be obtained from the NSA website.

I love my PDT/Tutor Awards – the NSA President stated that this had been a very successful initiative last year and that the intention was to have a bigger event this year in Trimester 2.

Campaigns

The Convenor noted that the **Pakistani Flood campaign** had already taken place and had raised £817.80 which had been sent off to the agreed charity.

The Convenor noted that she was struggling to find the appropriate contact for the **Blood Drive** but would continue to work on this. She noted that realistically this would now take place in Trimester 2.

The convenor noted that there would be activities around **Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance & World Aids Day** on 30/Nov, 1 & 2nd Dec.

Academic Feedback Campaign. The NSA President noted that this was a 3 year collaborative campaign in conjunction with the University. The aim was to encourage students to seek out, and for staff to offer prompt and appropriate, academic feedback. It was noted that Edinburgh Napier had not scored well on this issue in the National Student Survey.

Improved Facilities

Sports

The Treasurer and Student Activities Officer noted that she would be monitoring the opening of Sighthill in relation to the Sports and other facilities and that if reps had any views/comments these would be welcome.

Social

The NSA President noted that she was working on trying to ensure that NSA facilities are fit for purpose. The University had agreed NSA offices as a priority for space at Merchiston when it became available.

She noted that NSA was trying to get some social space allocated to students on all campuses.

She noted that the University was building new student accommodation at Fountain Bridge which would be due to open in 2013, housing 700 students. She noted that 200sq metres of space has been set aside for social space.

Communications Strategy

The convenor noted that NSA was trying to improve its communications with reps and students, the key aspects of which are included in the paper SS10/1/10. The convenor reminded reps that all official NSA email communications would be entitled 'REP ALERT'.

Governance Review – Vision, Mission and Values

The NSA President reviewed progress with the Governance Review. She noted that there had been a series of workshops during the Summer period open to all incoming and outgoing Executive Committee Members and that NSA had engaged the services of external consultants using funding provided by the University.

The result of the workshops was a number of tangible statements relating to Vision, Mission and Values which were presented to Senate. The NSA President explained the rationale for the statements. She noted that these (if passed) would enable NSA to define its structures and define organisational behaviour.

The NSA President stated that each statement had been carefully constructed and each word considered to try and ensure that there would be longevity.

A rep asked if the original mission statement had been referred to/incorporated and the NSA President advised that the last Senate had asked for something totally new. The original was read out to Senate.

There was a discussion about the definition of 'student experience' and whether this incorporated welfare services, and in particular ISAS. A member of the Student Executive assured Senate that ISAS/Welfare was a key service of value to students and was included in the definition of student experience.

Senate voted to pass the new Vision, Mission and Values.

Higher Education Funding – Liam Burns NUS Scotland President

The NUS Scotland President presented on the current situation within Higher Education in England, the Browne Report and the potential implications for Scotland.

It was noted that Edinburgh Napier Students would be asked their views on how Scottish Higher Education should be funded in an opinion poll organised by NSA.

It was noted that the National Demo against aspects of the Browne Report (especially the introduction of fees) was taking place on Thursday 10th November in London. It was noted that NSA was sending down a bus which could accept a maximum of 30 people, including the NSA President.

Reps asked questions on funding for student parents; how the graduate tax system would work and at what level people would be expected to make a contribution; stereotyping students as being lazy; the impact of having to pay back student maintenance loans at the same time as paying back fee loans; if the proposals would impact on EU students; how a link between high paid work and having obtained a degree could be established; what would happen to part-time and postgraduate fees; who would decide the threshold for repayment; if expenditure would be taken into account as well as income in assessment.

The NSA President noted that at Scottish Council on 6th November Higher Education Funding was on the agenda.

Edinburgh Napier Funding

The NSA President noted that NSA had suffered a 10% cut in its budget. It was noted that overall the University was trying to reduce its outgoings by 20% and that this could/was likely to mean staff redundancies. It was noted that the University had given an assurance to the NSA President that the student experience would not be affected BUT reps needed to inform NSA if this was not the case. The NSA President stressed that reps needed to act quickly to let her know if there were any problems for their classes as a result of the cuts, so that she could take these issues back to the University.

Executive Elections – Depute Faculty Officers

FECCI – there was only 1 candidate, Andrew Wildgoose, and he was duly elected.

HLSS – there was only 1 candidate, Sian Bryant, and she was duly elected.

NUBS – there were 3 candidates who were invited to spend 1 minute informing Senate why they wanted the position. Senate then voted and the winning candidate was Jennifer Carnegie who obtained 49 votes.

Rep Issues

Canteens

- i) Noted that Craighouse canteen now closed at 3pm when some classes started at 4pm. There were no shops locally and vending machines were not working/stocked. There was no provision for heating food and hot water was charged at 20p.
- ii) It was queried if the provision of a microwave at Merchiston would be possible to allow students to heat their own food. It was noted there was likely to be health and safety restrictions.
- iii) It was noted that the menu did not change regularly at Craiglockhart and that the choices are very limited, especially in the vacation period when there were still a lot of postgrads around
- iv) Merchiston canteen was closed at night even though the JKCC remained open.

Cash Machines

- i) In the absence of a case machine it was queried if the canteen could at least accept debit cards as payment for food.

Libraries

- i) Issues with workmen whistling causing disruption for students working in library at Merchiston.
- ii) If the Craighouse library was going to remain fully stocked? **KB** noted the University had given an assurance that all vital services would be offered but not necessarily on campus i.e. Craighouse students could find that some of their library facilities were being moved to Merchiston.

C&IT

- i) Was it possible for Outlook to have an option for people to sell goods/equipment. It was noted a student is on the Web CT working group and that this issue might be better fed into that review.

Campuses

Craighouse

- i) The need for a reading room for 4th year dissertation students was noted.
- ii) The lights go off at a certain time, plunging everyone into darkness – a health and safety issue. Some lights were left blazing when the building was closed.

Sighthill

- i) Transport provision was questioned and whether there would be a bus stop inside the campus. **JP** noted she was working with Lothian Buses on this.
- ii) Clearly signed and safe cycle routes?
- iii) Student safety especially at night, lighting and the underpass? **KB** noted that the University had paid Lothian Council to build a bridge but this had not happened.
- iv) 24 hours access? **KB** noted that the campus will open at 7.30 and close at 10pm.

Student Senate

- i) If senate could be held earlier and at Craiglockhart sometimes. **KB** noted that attendance at Craiglockhart was traditionally poor, probably because majority of students did not live locally. It was noted that a 5.30 start had historically been the most convenient for people and it had already been advertised on this basis.