

**MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**4PM, THURSDAY 19 February 2009**  
**Vertigo, Level 8, the Union, John Anderson Campus**

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**PRESENT:** Sign-in sheets available (225 members present)

**UNON CHAIR:** Gurjit Singh

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian McCartney, Al Wilson & Audrey Murray – Chair's Aids and Minute-Taker

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**AGM08/09.1 ROLL CALL & QUORUM COUNT**

The meeting is quorum

**AGM08/09.2 MINUTES of the LAST MEETING**

Since the AGM held last year was inquorate there are no Minutes to be ratified.

The Union Chair asked approval to have pictures taken during the meeting.  
A vote was taken and agreed

**AGM08/09.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Not relevant

**AGM08/09.4 AMENDMENTS to the CONSTITUTION, RULES & SCHEDULES**

None to discuss

**AGM08/09.5 SUBMISSION OF ACCOUNTS**

The President presented the Accounts for 2007/8 – see Statement below. These were the audited financial statements produced by Baker Tilly, external Auditors, in line with best practice. They have been approved at UMC, SRC, Executive and the Finance Committee. The statement shows a £101,000 profit for this year.

President's statement:

Good afternoon everyone, and a very warm welcome to you all to the University of Strathclyde Students' Association General Meeting for 2008/09.

Firstly, a brief summary of the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2008. The financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) – Accounting and Reporting by Charities as revised in 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008 was a successful one for the Association. Commercial revenue was stable in a challenging trading environment and at the year end posted a surplus of £101,393 (2007: £60,928). Despite closing two bars, net sales of £1,018,000 was achieved, this was in line with budget and slightly ahead of last year.

The financial year end saw the Association with an overall surplus of £35,937, an achievement in itself but more so when compared to year end 2007 when a loss of £109,110 was posted.

In the largest commercial investment USSA has witnessed in recent years, the Food Court changed from self service to a deli style operation with hot food table service in the newly refurbished non-licensed area on level 4, now known as the Scene. The key change in the food offering saw catering sales increase 10% on last year.

The closure of Miller's bar helped facilitate a new home for our support and advisory service, ASK on level 5, along with the introduction of The Lounge; a non-licensed flexible space suitable for packed lunches and group interaction.

The Gamezone was also upgraded to provide much needed seating areas for our students.

After a full Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) survey in 2007 the Association building saw much needed improvements in many areas, including passenger and goods lifts and increased availability of accessible toilets.

In a bid to update the look, feel and impact of the Association brand and to make it as relevant to its membership as possible, a re-branding exercise was also undertaken in 2008. Consultation between executive, students and staff resulted in a new logo and brand guidelines being implemented across all areas, including advertising, promotion, uniforms and Association publicity materials.

Those were some of the most noteworthy events of last year. Now, to look at some of the big numbers:

Income: £3,315,356  
Expenditure: £3,279,419  
End of year balance for 2007/08: £35,937

Question time available, but not used

Following a vote the meeting gave their approval of Accounts, unanimously

## **AGM08/09.6 EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Presented by Neil Campbell, Union President, on current Executive objectives, achievements and challenges.

The AGM is the sovereign decision-making body of the Association, open to every member who chooses to take part. I'm delighted that so many people this

year have taken up this right, allowing us to collectively set the policies and priorities that will lead this Association throughout the coming year – and beyond. Exactly one year ago, we as an executive were just a group of individual students, each with our own ideas, bracing ourselves for the campaign ahead. Last year's election was one of the most fiercely contested in a long time, with 25 candidates standing on a variety of platforms, giving the students of Strathclyde a real choice. For those of us who were elected, the next task was to distil 11 manifestoes into a set of priorities that we, as a team, could champion together. Those priorities were then shared with the student body via the student guide, sent out to everyone ahead of Freshers' Week.

First on the list of priorities: To have the biggest AGM in a decade. Well it's safe to say that we've achieved that. The choice to move the AGM to February, to coincide with the elections, was a bold one, but it's certainly paid off. Executives in recent years, it's fair to say, have become increasingly disillusioned with the AGM, as have students, assuming in advance that no-one will come, that no-one cares. Today we see that that is not the case, and the hard work that Nicole has put in, along with the rest of the team, has helped ensure that this Union is taking its orders from a bigger, more diverse group of students than any time in recent memory.

Our second priority was to have a strong, contested and active Student Representative Council. Given the nature of SRC, this was an ambitious target; that being said, the contributions from this year's councillors, both in holding the executive to account and setting policy for the association, have been invaluable. SRC can be a big commitment and we're indebted to those students who regularly give up their valuable time to contribute to the running of the Association. It's not only the council meetings, but the numerous committees that require the time and effort of student volunteers, without whom we couldn't do what we do. This year, SRC has led on change here at Strathclyde, calling for improvements to the exam timetable which we are taking up with the university. On a national level too, SRC gave us the mandate to take the issue of student dental care costs to our National Union of Students' in Scotland. It will be debated there in a few weeks and I'm confident we will achieve consensus. This just goes to show how one person's idea, when put to the democratic process, can become the shared belief of many.

The SRC model of governance is far from ideal, however, and there is wide agreement that the way we govern the Association needs to be seriously reconsidered. Too often I hear students who have to choose between taking part in student democracy and going to work so they can pay the rent. Our third priority therefore, was to build a platform for a successful governance review. We consulted with students, student volunteers, class reps, sports people, council members and other student unions up and down the country and formed the principles that would be the basis for reform: accessibility, balanced with accountability; transparent and robust decision-making, taken at the lowest appropriate level; clarity in communication and well defined roles and responsibilities, ensuring policy is enacted; all the while holding true to the fact that we are -and always will be - an organisation that is run by students, for students. In less than two weeks, the students of Strathclyde will make the ultimate decision. We have presented two new models to form the basis of a new constitution. Although different, both seek to cut bureaucracy across the board and move the focus of the organisation away from a structure that is shaped around what happens within this building and towards what really matters: education, representation, personal development, equality and diversity and the services that students need from their Union. In both models, students

like those here today will have the opportunity to shape association policy throughout the year, as and when they choose, not only at the AGM. A council will be retained, but made up of elected students with a mandate and desire to be there, not just because the constitution says they have to be. We're looking to embrace technology and put the big decisions out to online referenda on several occasions throughout the year, not just at election time. And both models will show us, in the longer term, to relate what we do to the work of class reps throughout the faculties, with a view to creating a coherent, consistent system of academic representation that belongs to the student, not the University. This change won't happen overnight and assuming one of these models is picked, there will be plenty for next year's executive to take forward. One thing's for sure, standing still is not an option. For too long this Union has been serving its structures. Now its time for a structure that serves us.

Also on our list of priorities was the development of an effective communications strategy. To represent our members, we have to know what they want. For them to feel represented, they have to know what we're doing. We also need to ensure that our work is being seen by the wider world. This year's AGM is just one piece of evidence for the success of our communications strategy. The motions that have come from the executive today aren't our ideas, but based on feedback that we gathered around the campus. More formally, we've set up a regular newsletter for class reps to improve out ties with them. In the press, we've been recognised for the success of our Fresher's Week despite the economic climate and praised for the socially responsible way that we go about our trading. I can't mention communication without talking about student media. The Strathclyde Telegraph has continued from strength to strength this year and although they will proudly tell you that they quite rightly take no direction from the executive, they are still a vital part in the way students keep abreast of development within the university, the union and the wider world. After a stop and go start, we also have Strathclyde Fusion, our radio station, broadcasting regularly for the first time certainly since I came to Strathclyde. Long may it continue and I look forward to its contribution to the dialogue that will shape our organisation in the years to come.

I've touched on Freshers' Week already, but it was another key priority, as was expanding and improving entertainment and service provision. Freshers' Week was one of the most successful in many years. Not only were the evening entertainments well attended, but the bigger, better freshers' fair attracted lots of attention from freshers' and returning students alike. The freshers' fairground returned to halls for a second year, as did the good weather to go with it. The line-up for Freshers' Week '08 was one of the best ever with live bands, DJs, comedy and hypnotism by a dog. The biggest complaint was that there was too much going on. We've sought to continue on from that, with live comedy throughout semester 1, the establishing of a regular open-mic night and a series of international themed events including our recent celebration of the Chinese New Year, as well as regular nights and all-nighters. Again and again we're proving that student unions are not just about cheap drink and cheesy pop music, but capable of delivering unique experiences that students can't get anywhere else.

In terms of opportunities for students, we continue to deliver. Freshers' Week saw increased sign-ups for sports teams, clubs and societies, volunteering and liberation groups. This success is a testament to the students that run these groups, committing their time to helping others share in their interests. At the executive level, we have merely sought to make it easier for students to get involved in these activities, cutting back bureaucracy and ensuring they maintain

a high profile. There are the old-timers like RAG, our charity group, who this year held a hugely successful casino night and are always out collecting money. We've also seen activity where previously it was lacking. For the last five years we've been without an SWD convenor. This year, we have an entire group and they've already held a hugely successful event with Kelly Knox, the winner of Britain's missing top model. The university thought that holding an Alternative Welcome event during Freshers' Week was a waste of time because it was so poorly attended last year. This year just went to show that even if you only bring together a small handful of students with a shared cause, very soon you have an unstoppable movement for change.

Reaching more students with better campaigns was a key priority for this year. Although the word campaign is only present in one person's title, campaigning is something that should permeate the student movement. We started the year by highlighting the dangers of drink spiking to new students here in the Union, whilst at the National level, we brought policy ensuring that NUS is at the heart of a new living wage campaign being run by the poverty alliance. Also at the national level we helped to ensure that the minority SNP government failed in its attempts to discriminate against 18-21 year olds and instead look at alcohol in Scotland as a problem that permeates all age groups. At the same time, pressure was applied to guarantee student exemption from the proposed local income tax, a tax what in its original form would have meant the students who have to work long hours would end up paying the most. Back at Strathclyde we saw the return of Green Week, proving that sustainability is a constant concern for students and led us to enter the Sound Impact awards – for student unions that take environmentalist seriously. Our recent sexual health campaign and our soon to be launched mental health campaign, coupled with our professional advisory service, ASK, play a vital role in ensuring the wellbeing of Strathclyde students throughout their time here.

Finally there's the Union building itself. In May, we'll be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it's certainly showing its age. This place is inflexible for redevelopment, expensive to heat and light and inaccessible to students with certain disabilities. Sooner or later, we're going to have to move and the University have agreed that it's a matter of when, not if. The question of when however, is still a big one. Given the current economic climate, which has led to a review of both the Jordanhill relocation and the new sports centre, it is difficult to say what the future will hold. Nevertheless, we firmly believe that any campus redevelopment needs a students association at the heart of it, one that meets the needs of tomorrow's students, not those of the 1950's.

That concludes the executive report for this AGM. I'm happy to take any questions if the chair will permit?

Following a vote the meeting gave their approval of the Executive Report, unanimously

## **AGM08/09.7 MOTIONS**

The Union Chair highlighted that during extensive debate consideration should be given to respect all student opinions.

Proposed order:

Motion 1 – 4	As Students
Motion 5 – 6	As Citizens of the World
Motion 7	As Members of this Association

A procedural motion SO.4.59a was brought requesting to change motion number 5 to be heard first. This required a 2/3 majority.

A vote was taken and the motion fell

**i. Give us our feedback**

Following a speech by the proposer and final summation, a vote was taken and the Motion **passed/carried**

**AGM Notes**

1. In 2009 Strathclyde final year Students will be invited to take part in the National Student Survey for the third year running
2. In 2007 only 58% of Strathclyde Students were satisfied with their feedback compared to the national average of 62%
3. In 2008 Strathclyde student satisfaction with assessment and feedback fell to 57% whilst the national average rose to 64%
4. In certain department many students are waiting over a month for feedback on their assignments and in some instances students have submitted subsequent pieces of coursework before having received feedback from the first item
5. The Ten Principles of good feedback outlined by the NUS in 2008

**AGM Believes**

1. That the current level of satisfaction is unacceptably low and that a place of useful learning should be a place of useful feedback embodying NUS principles
2. That feedback should be provided on exams as these often contribute greatly to assessment and that good feedback should be accessible to all students and not just those on campus full time
3. That good feedback should state clearly what good performance is and how students themselves can improve their work to meet this standard
4. That good feedback delivers timely high quality information on the learning process and shapes the future learning on the course
5. That good feedback amounts to a dialogue between teacher and student(s) and not simply a few remarks on a page

### **AGM Resolves**

1. That enhancing the quality of assessment and feedback becomes a priority campaign for USSA and remains so until serious improvements are made on the National Student Survey Results from Strathclyde
2. That the objectives of this campaign should be to:
  - a) Raise student awareness of the problem of poor feedback
  - b) Pressure the University to implement a framework to improve the quality of feedback right across the institution
  - c) To locate examples of best practice on feedback and promote them throughout the University
3. That this becomes a priority campaign for the current Executive Committee once the Elections are completed for 2009-02-25
4. That the University adopt the Ten principles of good feedback from NUS with the aim to improve the NSS Results on student feedback year on year and to exceed the national average of satisfaction by NSS 2011

Proposed: Benedict Docherty, Vice President Student Development  
Seconder: Chris Majury, Academic Affairs Officer

### **ii. Investment in our library**

Following a speech by the Proposer, with a final summation waved, a vote was taken and the Motion **carried/passed**

### **AGM Notes**

1. The following pieces of USSA standing policy: *Uni of Strathclyde Library (2000/01); Library Facilities (04/05); Inadequate Library Facilities (06/07); Online renewal of Library books (06/07) and Noise in the Library (06/07).*
2. The university's own *Risk Management Annual Report* for 2007/08, that identified the following risks within the library as being both of high risk and high likelihood:
  - Inability to maintain or extend electronic services due to declining funding
  - Unsuitability of current space / lack of suitable facilities
  - Lack of Estates activity in developing library needs
  - Failure to support degree programmes and research through Inadequate information provision and document delivery
3. The £300 million being spent developing the University estate, including

£35 million for a new sports centre

4. The significant investment in libraries by other institutions in recent years, most notably the Saltire Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University
5. The additional strain that will be placed on the Andersonian Library following the relocation of the education faculty

**AGM Believes:**

1. That of all the university's facilities, the library is the one that has the greatest impact on the greatest number of students' learning experience
2. That failure to invest significantly in the Andersonian Library over the years has resulted in Strathclyde students having to make do with a second-rate service in terms of literature, IT provision, study space, opening hours and catering
3. That a first class library is a significant selling point for any university; even more so than a first class sports centre
4. That for £35 million to be spent on a new sports centre, whilst significant library redevelopment is still a distant vision, is unacceptable
5. That a place of useful learning needs to have a useful library
6. That as a collective body of students from across the 5 faculties, we recognise the shared need for a better library and that the University should make real, significant library investment a top priority

**AGM Resolves:**

1. That through USSA and in conjunction with the library management, pressure is applied at all levels within the university so that a long term strategy for continuous improvement of the library is devised and implemented, ensuring sustainability of library series and the ability to adapt to the changing demands of modern learning styles and technologies
2. That any such strategy is informed by extensive consultation with students and other users, to ensure that the Strathclyde students of the future have access to the library facilities that they deserve
3. That the USSA executive committee, within the University governance structures, lobby and give their full support for any additional funding needed to achieve these objectives

Proposed: Neil Campbell, President  
Seconded: Nicole McCaffery, Deputy President

**iii. Stop charges for essential course materials**

The Democratic Services Committee proposed an amendment to this motion:

**Amend AGM notes 1 to read as**

USSA's standing policy from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 "Charging for course Materials" and "French Dossier Costs"

A vote for the amendment was taken and **passed** and should be included in the main motion

Following a speech by the Proposer and summation, a vote was taken and the Motion **carried/passed**

**AGM Notes:**

1. USSA's standing policy from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006: "Charging for course Materials" and "French Dossier Costs"
2. The University's guidance to academics on charges for course materials as passed at Academic Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006, following pressure from USSA and based on the Scottish Funding Council's own recommendations
3. That on a number of courses, printed course materials are essential in order for students to participate in lectures, tutorials and labs

**AGM Believes:**

1. That since the above policies were passed, improvements have been made, but just two years later, many courses are still charging for course materials that students are told they require
2. That there is a serious difference of opinion on what is deemed by many academics as 'non-essential to the course' and what is deemed by many students as 'essential' to participate fully in their classes
3. That not only is it unreasonable for these costs to be covered by students, but many students are not aware that these costs exist until they begin their course, which can seriously disrupt the tight budgets that they have already arranged
4. Where students require printed course materials to be able to properly engage with the teaching they receive, these should be provided free of charge

**AGM Resolves:**

1. That USSA return to the University with policy which clearly defines what can and cannot be charged for as 'essential course materials'
2. That this policy be formulated by the Education Policy Committee based on feedback from students across the institution about their experiences, with an emphasis on equality and consistency across the University
3. To ensure that the dissemination of this information be extended not only to each academic in the University, but also to each student so that they know what costs to expect before they start and can budget accordingly as well as an understanding of what they should not expect to pay for

Proposed: Neil Campbell, President  
Seconder: Chris Majury, Academic Affairs Officer

**iv. Saying no to top up fees. Again.**

The Proposer spoke on the Motion, gave a final summation, a vote was taken and the Motion was **passed/carried**

**AGM Notes:**

1. That the Westminster government is about to embark on its 2009 review of HE funding
2. The retirement of Professor Hamnett, Principal of the University of Strathclyde
3. The appointment of Professor Jim McDonald as incoming Principal of the University of Strathclyde
4. That by the time the 2009 review is being undertaken there will be five recently retired Principals of Scottish HE institutions
5. The current debate taking place on the future competitiveness of Scottish HE institutions
6. The existence of a number of pieces of standing policy concerning top up fees already
7. Labour's support, both north and south of the border, for top up fees

**AGM Believes:**

1. That students won an important and historic battle in February 2008 with the abolition of the graduate endowment
2. That already, certain institutions' Principal's have privately expressed concerns over the future funding and competitiveness of Scottish

institutions compared to England and Wales with the absence of top up fees north of the border

3. That, especially among the “ancient” universities, there have been musings of the introduction of fees in order to remain what they deem to be “competitive”
4. That, no matter what your political beliefs, minority governments such as the SNP in Holyrood are by their very nature unstable and rely on pacts formed as and when required to ensure certain pieces of legislation
5. Whilst support existed at the time for an end to the graduate endowment, this support is not set in stone and guaranteed
6. That south of the border many institutions are calling for the cap to be lifted; something which is more than likely to happen
7. That should the cap be lifted it places an even greater funding gap between Scotland and the rest of the UK
8. That with the existence of five former Principal's from Scottish institutions during the 2009 review, formerly private ideals such as the favouring of top up fees in Scotland may become public ones
9. That with the 2009 review about to take place as he take up office, the time is now ripe for the students of Strathclyde to seek assurances from Professor Jim McDonald that he supports a Scottish students rights to a free and funded education; similarly it is important to seek assurances from Professor Andrew Hamnett that one in retirement he will never waiver from his public stance whilst at Strathclyde that he too supports this right
10. That simply because Scottish students have won the right to a free and funded education does not mean that they should become complacent and accept this victory as an absolute

Proposer: Philip Whyte, Debates Convenor  
Seconded: Chris Majury, Academic Affairs Officer

**v. To end Strathclyde's complicity in military conflicts**

Amendment proposed by Democratic Services Committee was voted on, but **fell**.

**AGM Notes:**

Replace 1 to read as:

1. 1062 Palestine civilians including 280 children and women have died in the recent conflict in Gaza
2. A group of Strathclyde Students occupied the McCance building on 4-5<sup>th</sup> of February 2009

Renumber AGM notes accordingly

Discussion followed about the proposed motion only

Following a lengthy discussion a summation was given for and against the Motion. A vote was taken and the Motion **passed/carried**

**AGM Notes:**

1. That the recent massacre of over 1062 Palestinian civilians, including 280 children and 111 women, in the occupied territories of Gaza by the Israeli government<sup>1</sup> has led students of Strathclyde University to occupy the finance building on 4-5 February 2009 in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle
2. That, as a result of the students' occupation, the University has formally expressed "*its deep concern about the plight of the people of Gaza*"<sup>2</sup>
3. That the University has consequently stopped purchasing water supplies from, though it has not terminated the contract with, the Israeli-owned company Eden Springs Ltd – a subsidiary of a major water provider (Mayanot Eden) operating commercial activities in the Occupied Territories in breach of international law<sup>3</sup>
4. That the University engages in research and development (R&D) activities with and receives funding and contracts from, companies who profit from the occupation of Gaza and other warstricken zones, such as BAE Systems – one of the UK's largest arms manufacturer supplying the Israeli army with weapon-components responsible for the recent bombings in Gaza.

**AGM Believes:**

1. That the occupation of Gaza and is unlawful, as is also the commercial exploitation of the conflict by any company
2. That by building ties with companies profiting from the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, such as BAE and Eden Springs, the University and its students are complicit in the occupation of Gaza
3. That none of the activities pursued by the students and/or university staff must contribute, directly or indirectly, to the occupation of Gaza and its commercial exploitation

**AGM Instructs:**

1. The Association to pressure the university to cut all ties with BAE, its subsidiaries and other companies with links to the arms trade, particularly in relation to:
  - i. funding, irrespective of its nature and including – but not limited to – scholarships, internships, R&D contracts and outsourcing

- ii. academics supporting and promoting military R&D, including their presence at lectures, conferences or other activities/ events organised by the University
- 2. The Association to pressure the University to terminate the contract with Eden Springs Ltd and not to enter into future commercial agreements with companies and/or their subsidiaries, who exploit conflict for their commercial activities and stand to profit from war
- 3. The Association to ban BAE and other companies with links to the arms trade and/or their representatives from having presence in the Association's building(s) and events, including – but not limiting to – posters, stalls, presence at careers fairs, etc
- 4. The Association to carry out an investigation on the direct and indirect ties (such as funding) of this University with companies operating in the arms trade
- 5. The Association to actively support and publicise appeals to alleviate human suffering in Gaza and other conflict zones

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<sup>1</sup> Palestinian Centre for Human Rights. Weekly Report: On Israeli human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian

<sup>2</sup> Peter West, Secretary to the University of Strathclyde, [http://www.strach.ac.uk/press/newsrealeses/headline\\_172779\\_en.html](http://www.strach.ac.uk/press/newsrealeses/headline_172779_en.html)

<sup>3</sup> Articles 47 and 52 of the Geneva Convention; UN Resolution 333 (XXIX); UN Resolution 59/251

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Proposer: Ben Wray  
Seconder: Kim Bizzarri

**vi. Condemn the Illegal Occupiers**

Following a speech by the Proposer, a vote was taken but the Motion **fell**

**vii. Door charges for Strathclyde Students**

Following a speech by the Proposer, a vote was taken but the Motion **fell**

**AGM08/09.8     A.O.C.B.**

The Returning Officer presented election speeches by Executive nominees

Presidential Candidates:

- Yousuf Hamid
- Bryan Simpson
- Philip Whyte

Deputy President Candidates:

- Sarah Collins
- Amy Davies
- Martin Harvey
- Naomi Hastings

Sports President Candidates:

- Philip Gallagher
- Andrew Martin
- Gavin Park

**The meeting closed at 18:50**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
5PM, THURSDAY 7 MAY 2009  
Vertigo, Level 8, The Union**

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**ATTENDANCE:** Sign-in sheets available (370 Ordinary Members in Attendance)

**UNON CHAIR:** Liam Burns, NUS President Elect

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian McCartney, Al Wilson & Audrey Murray – Chair's Aids and Minute-Taker

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**EGM0809/09.1 ROLL CALL**

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting of the Extraordinary General Meeting by the Chair. The meeting required 150 students to reach quoracy, with the actual number of students who signed-in being 370.

**EGM0809/09.2 MOTIONS**

**1. Save YOUR Degree**

The President thanked everyone for attending during such a busy exam time. He gave a speech on behalf of the Executive outlining the motion and highlighted that there was an amendment to be considered. The proposer of the amendment was willing to withdraw their motion if the Executive gave their assurance that a committee would be set up that night. The Vice President Student Development would not give that assurance, but suggested it would be considered the following week. The proposer accepted this decision.

A vote was taken and the amendment to the motion **fell**.

A discussion followed regarding the original motion and a vote taken.

The motion **passed**.

**EGM Notes**

1. The Principal's commitment to having an internationally renowned technological University;
2. The ongoing work of the Quality Assurance Agency with regard to research teaching linkages;
3. The proposed merger between the Education and Law, Arts and Social Sciences (LASS) faculties;

4. The University's Social Sciences Review Group has stated that the merger between Education and LASS would only be of benefit to the University, "provided that there is... disinvestment from areas of weakness";
5. The Principal's announcement that Strathclyde should have "strong, appropriate social sciences, arts and humanities" in line with becoming "an unambiguously recognised internationally leading technological university;
6. The continuing cuts to the Modern Languages Department;
7. That consultation and communication are not the same thing.

### **EGM Believes**

1. It is often the case that research-led institutions have substantially below par undergraduate learning and teaching provisions;
2. Researchers do not necessarily make good lecturers when they fail to let their research inform their teaching. There is no casual link, at present, to say that research is having a positive affect on teaching;
3. Last year the Research Teaching Linkages Enhancement Theme highlighted the fact that research should never be a priority over teaching, but should instead be conducive to teaching;
4. It has been shown time and time again that research staff within the university are valued more than purely teaching staff;
5. There is no point having an internationally renowned research institution if it does not also offer internationally renowned teaching;
6. There has been no rationale produced publicly to justify and explain the proposed merger of the Education and LASS faculties;
7. There has been no definitive answer as to what social sciences are considered to be "areas of weakness" which would require disinvestment;
8. At the Principal's own admission, the consultation and communication regarding the restructuring of the Modern Languages Department has been inadequate; we believe that this has led to undue stress and anxiety for students and staff;
9. The restructure of the Modern Languages department will not meet the educational needs and demands of Strathclyde students;

10. That “consultation” is the comprehensive and structured engagement of staff and students, enabling them to participate fully in formulating the future direction and implementation of University strategy;
11. That at every step of the process there has been no consultation with the students of Strathclyde regarding the changes being made to their learning experience;

### **EGM Resolves**

1. That the Executive lobby for a concrete commitment from the Principal and the University hierarchy that learning and teaching will be at the forefront of Strathclyde and will not be hindered by moving to a research focused institution;
2. That the Executive lobby all levels of the university to sign up to the recommendations set out by the Research Teaching Linkages Enhancement Theme, which the university is a key stakeholder in;
3. That the Executive lobby the university to ensure that all undergraduate learning and teaching at Strathclyde is research informed and not research-led;
4. That the Executive oppose any cuts in department that will prioritise research over learning and teaching;
5. That the Executive strive to ensure that there will be a student representative from USSA on the implementation groups for the process of the change.

Proposed by: USSA Executive Committee

## **2. Save YOUR Lecturers**

The Vice President Student Development spoke on behalf of the Executive to propose this motion.

An amendment was proposed, but EGM Resolve7 was to be ignored.

The Vice President Student Development proposed breaking the amendment into parts. This was voted on and **passed**

After a discussion and summation on the EGM Resolves parts, a vote was taken and **passed**

Due to a substantive motion, the remaining amendments will be added to the original motion.

A lengthy discussion followed concerning the main motion which highlighted that some Language Students may have to study at Glasgow University for part of their course. The Chair requested the Executive to question this fact and report back.

A vote was taken on the motion, including the amendments and **passed**

### **EGM Notes**

1. The University has confirmed that 140 jobs are to be cut through “early retirement voluntary severance”;
2. The UCU has called a rally at 9am on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009 under the heading ‘Defend Higher Education’
3. The University and College Union (UCU) has publicly stated that there has not been proper consultation or communication behind the decision to cut jobs and merge departments at the University;
4. The proposed merger between Education and Law, Arts and Social Science faculties;
5. The Principal’s announcement that Strathclyde should have strong, appropriate social sciences, arts and humanities” in line with becoming “an unambiguously recognised internationally leading technological university;
6. That consultation and communication are not the same thing;
7. That the University of Strathclyde will receive a 0.3% cut in funding from the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) for the academic year 2009/10;
8. The proposed vision for change at Strathclyde pre-dated the announcement of funding cuts from the SFC by two months;
9. In 2006/07, university Vice Chancellors (Principals) across the UK received an 8% pay rise. In 2007/08, they received a 9% pay rise;
10. Over the financial year 2007/08, the University of Strathclyde Vice Chancellor received a salary of £199,000. This does not include a mortgage-free house, a chauffeur, pension contributions or expenses. This figure does not include any salary adjustments from 2008/09.
11. At present, at least eight university Vice Chancellors have announced that they will take a pay freeze as one means of avoiding department cuts;
12. That the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) indicated in April 2009 that up to 100 universities may face redundancies;

13. That the UCEA failed to formulate policy to stop redundancies to the University and College Union (UCU) by the deadline of 20 April 2009;
14. That the UCU are balloting for strike action across the Higher Education sector to stop cutbacks and save jobs.

#### **EGM Believes**

1. That any cutbacks or job losses are to the detriment of learning, teaching and/or services available to the students;
2. That "consultation" is the comprehensive and structured engagement of staff and students, enabling them to participate fully in formulating the future direction and implementation of University strategy;
3. Consultation in this current process of change has been extremely poor. Students and staff have not been asked their views on change;
4. The decision and implementation plan being made by the University will take place over the exam diet and summer break, Therefore jeopardising the necessity for student and staff Engagement;
5. Given that the vision for change pre-dated the unexpected cut from the SFC by two months, it would seem that using funding as reason for change was misguided at best...
6. There has been an encouraging precedent set by the University of Warwick Vice Chancellor, donating £20,000 of his salary back to the University as well as taking a pay freeze;

#### **EGM Resolves**

1. That the Executive support industrial action taken by all University of Strathclyde staff regarding job cuts and merged departments;
2. That the Executive oppose any mergers which they believe will have an adverse affect on the quality of teaching and learning at the University of Strathclyde;
3. That the Executive calls for greater consultation and clear communication with the University, including a clear timetable for student and staff involvement throughout the process of change;
4. Send a statement of support UCU and other Campus Trade Unions in the event of industrial action;

5. Organise and publicise public rallies involving USSA, campus Trade Unions and alumni;
6. Actively support and campaigns alongside other universities facing cutbacks.

Proposed by : USSA Executive Committee

Graham Roddick, Head of Estates Development, was invited to address the meeting and offered to answer any questions from the attendees. He assured the meeting that any relocation of the Union building would take at least three to five years. The plan is to discuss the whole University estate and seek feedback from stakeholders. At the moment the Union Building is not economically sustainable and they plan to set up a working group, EDF 2, headed by Fraser Livingston to discuss location and content.

### **3. Save YOUR Union**

This motion was proposed by the Vice President Operational & Commercial Services on behalf of the Executive.

An amendment had been proposed, but following discussion with the proposer, it was agreed that this amendment would be discounted.

Following discussion and a summation, a vote was taken and **passed**

#### **EGM Notes**

1. That USSA has been campaigning for a new Union building for a number of years and that this was a stated Executive priority for the academic year 2008/09;
2. The University has declared the current Union building “not fit for purpose”;
3. In August 2008 USSA created a vision document for a new Union building. The proposed site for this development was the Henry Dyer building and Rottenrow Gardens, basing the Union at the heart of the campus;
4. In the past the University has shown the desire to create a “one-stop-shop”, combining the students’ support services offered by the Union and University;
5. As part of the new Estates Department Framework (version 2), the Principal has discussed the option of fragmenting the Students’ Association services, placing them in different locations throughout campus, with the Union itself based in the renovated Curran building;

6. The Principal announced these plans to staff and has not yet consulted USSA at all on this issue;
7. A survey carried out in February 2008 by the Students' Association and the University's Office of Marketing and Communications revealed the following:
  - 78% of students believed that the representation through the Students' Association was 'important' or 'very important';
  - 87% felt that the provision of bars and entertainment run by students for students as 'important' or 'very important';
  - 70% felt that the welfare and support services offered by the Students' Association were 'important' or 'very important';
  - 69% said that the opportunity to join sport clubs and societies was an 'important' or 'very important' function of the Students' Association;
  - 88% listed the opportunities to meet people and network as 'important' or 'very important';
8. In a separate survey carried out by the Students' Association in October 2008, 82% of students believed that the Students' Association enhances their experience at the University of Strathclyde.

### **EGM Believes**

1. With over 15,000 full time students, the Students' Association requires a new dedicated building to facilitate the needs of our members;
2. That there is nothing wrong with the idea of working alongside the University's support services; however, there must be a distinct separation in what the University and USSA offer to students;
3. Autonomy is essential to the operation of the Students' Association: Every area of the Students' Association must be run by students, for students;
4. The option presented by the University completely undermines what the students of Strathclyde expect and require of their Students' Association;
5. That "consultation" is the comprehensive and structured engagement of staff and students, enabling them to participate fully in formulating the future direction and implementation of University strategy.

### **EGM Resolves**

1. The Students' Association has to be based at the heart of the campus in its own right; in one building, in one location;
2. To strongly oppose any possible move that will fragment the services offered by USSA or impinge upon our autonomy;
3. That the Executive defend all services currently offered by the Students' Association and ensure that we maintain such provision in any future building;
4. For the University Management to adhere to previous discussions where the need for a new Union building was acknowledged.

**EGM080/09.03**

The Chair closed the Meeting at 19.25