

SRC #1 Minutes

DATE: 05/11/2025

The Round
Abertay Campus

Abertay
Students'
Association

1) Welcome

Carla welcomed the members.

2) Apologies

L'Jae, Kai, Jessica, Jenson, Safya.

3) Minutes

This was the first meeting of the year, so no minutes.

4) Open Business

Carla is working on the following campaigns:

- Plant-Based Universities
- Scottish Elections - how students can have an impact
- The situation with JIMS (Justice for Innocent Men Scotland)
- Increase international student support & showcasing everyone's culture
 - Starting Monday 17th November - events all week for students & looking to integrate home + international students

Luke's working on the following campaigns:

- Extending library opening hours
- Housing Campaign
- Save our Scottish Education: lobby the government
- Supporting societies to create bigger events

5) Co-opting Reps

Elizabeth Davison: 17 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

L'Jae Manzie: 14 yays, 0 nays, 3 abstentions

Halli Wilkerson: 17 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

6) Society Council Update

Nathan emailed the societies but did not receive any updates. Eddie noted that his society, AberGays, had not received an email. Nathan had used the society's email address, which is only accessible by certain committee members, so he will contact the committee directly in future.

7) Electing a chair for SRC

Eddie and Taye both presented their reasons for running.

- Eddie: was the Chair last year, worked with societies since he joined the uni, been here for 4-5 years, know a lot about keeping people in line.
- Taye: a 1st year student, involved with Abertay before joining, being good at communication and a good amount of activism, and keeping people in line, promise determination and order.

Angela suggested having a chair and a vice-chair, so both nominees could experience the role and learn from each other.

The members of SRC voted on the decision to create a chair and a vice-chair:

- 16 members voted "yes" to creating the positions.
- 19 members voted "yes" to electing Eddie as Chair and Taye as Vice-Chair.

There are some discrepancies in voting totals - half of the members were online and so some "yes" votes may have been missed or miscounted. This will be fixed in future SRC meetings by using a more advanced hybrid meeting system (the Owl Pro).

8) Electing two trustees for the Board

There were two spots available for the Board - a one-year term and a two-year term.

Nominations for 1 year term: Dounia, Lou, and Ellis

Nominations for 2 year term: Maddie, Lou, and Ellis

- Lou - Involved in representation from her very first year. Representative at Abertay & at NESCOL for two years. Interested in the effectiveness of the Association and the university. Sent out surveys. Involved in campaigns, like Twitch running a Blue Cross charity event. Good idea of what the Students Association wants to do and what students feel about the ASA and as a whole.
- Maddie - Not first time at university. Went to Aberystwyth. Focused on different aspirations and knows what to focus on, what to not focus on, had a role on societies, runs two businesses. Not a very finance brain but has experience. From secondary school has made large decisions, like being Head Girl and taking part in the School board.
- Ellis - rescinded nomination to give Maddie and Lou the opportunity.
- Dounia - rescinded nomination to give Maddie and Lou the opportunity, as well as bringing new voices to the Board.

Lou Ling for a one-year term: 14 yays and 1 abstention.

Maddie Vickers for a two-year term: 14 yays and 1 abstention.

Both candidates were elected to the board.

9) The Online Conduct Policy

This policy generated lots of discussion and constructive criticism from members, whose points are listed below.

1. Policing & Enforcement
 - Taye questioned whether this policy was reactionary or proactive.
 - Angela highlighted that if the policy applies to Abertay, it must restrict access to Abertay students for accountability; otherwise, only external escalation (e.g., police) is possible.
 - Eddie raised the need for clarity on “appropriate action” and suggested tiered sanctions.
2. User Identification & GDPR
 - Eddie and Lou noted challenges with usernames as they can change; unique IDs exist but raise GDPR concerns.
 - Angela suggested a secure “master key” linking usernames to student numbers for accountability.
3. Scope & Platforms
 - Cameo-Lee asked if this is Discord-specific; Carla clarified it applies broadly, but much discussion focused on Discord.
 - WhatsApp and other platforms also need inclusion; Eddie stressed guidance should cover social media under “online behaviour.”
4. Membership & Access
 - Eddie: Alumni/external guests require committee approval; public Discord links pose moderation challenges.
 - Lou proposed manual approval for public servers; Luke and Livi can implement this.
 - Concerns raised about restricting non-student access impacting society outreach (Nathan, Taye).
 - Sara: Trial membership is very important for societies, so students can get a feel for a society.
5. Moderation & Training

- Cameo-Lee asked about an SOP (Standard of Practice) for moderation; Carla emphasized training is essential.
 - Lou suggested societies need guidance on configuring Discord properly.
 - Maddie recommended scenario-based training for better understanding.
6. Policy Content & Structure
- Eddie and Lou: Current draft is overly Discord-focused, unclear, and inconsistent.
 - Need differentiation between universal rules (e.g., harassment, racism) and society-specific rules.
 - Suggest referencing Non-Academic Misconduct Policy as a baseline.
 - Cameo-Lee: Sections 2 & 3 could be condensed; Section 8 (Enforcement) needs clarity.
 - Privacy section (Section 5) too broad; reporting mechanisms should include Students' Association.
7. Implementation
- Eddie proposed separate versions: one for committees, one for general members.
 - Carla suggested a baseline policy with editable sections for societies.
 - Storm: Policy should be publicly accessible; joining a server implies agreement.

10) Any Other Business

The date of the next SRC meeting will be Wednesday 3rd December 2025.

JIMS and Stuart Waiton

Eddie brought up the Stuart Waiton situation and concerns about students bringing up unrelated issues with Waiton might water down his actions with inviting JIMS onto campus.

Carla: In terms of his historic conduct and what has led him to this point, if we could only talk about JIMS being there, it could be a risk to the chance of consequences for him.

Eddie: A lot of the guidance being spread to students is trans-related. Almost unanimously, the guidance has been specific about transphobic actions. If I was an evil bigoted newspaper, I would use that against the uni.

Lou: Issues are intertwined. The uni is not doing enough to vet speakers AND tackle Waiton's issues.

Elizabeth: Student Reps have to do a training course with sparqs on GBV - can we share it with students?

Dounia was a student within the class where the external speakers were invited. He doesn't allow freedom of expression and the students in the class haven't received any support from the university.

Carla is hosting a counter-lecture next week (w/b Monday 10th November).

Angela is happy to offer material on investigating sexual offences that she teaches to a 3rd year class.

