

Student Parliament 4

28.1.2020

Chair: Matt Crilly (President)

Staff in attendance:

Leo Howes (Head of Student Engagement), Adam Crawley (Policy & Campaigns Coordinator), Sofia Khan (Access & Participation Coordinator)

Officers in attendance:

Matt Crilly (President), Kayla-Megan Burns (VP Community), Eyram Ahadzie (VP Education), Savinna Kritharidou (Faculty Rep Business), Sophie Gwynne (Faculty Rep Engineering), Benn Rapson (Faculty Rep Business), Chelbi Hillan (Faculty Rep Science), Vinny Williamson (LGBT+ Rep), Paul Eweka (Mature Students Rep), Clodagh Halliday (Women's Rep), Michael-Sam Vidza (Postgraduate Rep)

Apologies received from:

Rachel Cairn (VP Inclusion), Maddy Watson (VP Sport), John Agbonrofo (VP Welfare), Meryam Shufaaq (BAME Rep), Lewis McDermott (Democracy Convenor), Gillyan Cullen (Disabled Students' Rep), Alfred Amiolemen (Interfaith Rep), Part Time Students' Rep (Brendan Agu)

Students in attendance:

Connor Laybourn, Ruairidh Wallace, Laoise Moore, Emre Dokuzparmak, Oguzhan Aydore, Daniel Awomukwu

Chair welcomes everyone – currently not quorate, will arrange the agenda until quorate.

1) Executive committee minutes

No questions for the minutes from 20th November and 27th November. Due to an error, the minutes from 4th December were not circulated. These will be circulated for the next meeting.

2) Executive Officer Accountability:

a) VP Education

VPE: Providing an update from November. Been running PGR training - had first training last November. Working with PG rep to set up society and run events. Been working on Decolonising the Curriculum, and students can recommend books. Support for reps. Academic Rep Conference- learning different skills. Looking to expand rep training online.

Chair invites questions.

Chelbi: Academic Rep conference was good but moving forward, how can we get more people to come along?

VPE: Did send out info and post but still people didn't come. Could perhaps do more. Want to take Faculty Rep conference on campus, so people can find out more.

Daniel: Rep Conference how was the invitation done? Didn't see anything, so maybe it didn't just come along to PGs?

VPE: Should have been sent to all reps. Will double check.

b) Vice President Community

VPC: ReFresh, more come and tries and lots of new students. Progress on divestment and carbon net zero. Will release more info on 3rd feb. Go Global will be a lot more eco-friendly, with an estimated reduction of 80% carbon emission. Working with Childrens' University (Outreach programme to widening access schools), wanting to do more outreach in the community. COP & COY – COP is Conference of Parties - all world leaders specifically discussing climate. Glasgow hosting it. Big deal, will be delegates of 100,000s of people. Union will be hosting the Conference of Youth, which is great for Youth Climate negotiations. Clubs training - lots of clubs can now deliver training sessions. Rugby Varsity - been getting clubs involved, as well as Wellbeing Wednesday. Net zero rent increase next year with Matt. Working with careers to encourage best options. Working with MSA to arrange interim committee. Presented paper on academic communities

President: May have Greta Thunberg in the lounge.

Ru: How do volunteers get involved in the stuff hosted here.

VPC: Will be more opportunities for people to get involved.

Paul: Working with the MSA, could you explain more?

VPC: Entire MSA committee resigned, so looking to put in an interim committee.

Paul: Who exactly are you working with? Was not updated on this.

VPC: 6 people have volunteered. Meeting on Friday and put the word out - not aiming to work with anyone in particular but wanted to get something together.

Paul: Is it possible to try to reach out to people who have been involved before as they can help further?

VPC: Myself, Matt and Sofia working on it - just want to get discussions going again. So wanting to make the space a lot more open and improve the culture.

President: Should have reached out earlier to you Paul, point of interim committee is just to get as many volunteers on the ground as possible to keep us posted.

Paul: Lots of volunteers on Friday, so would may be the best option to discuss, they may have ideas to contribute. A lot of people don't know about the place, and I just want to get more people in. Want to look for solutions. Can we reach out to the former convenors?

President: Yes, had a discussion. Want to keep Paul's input. Any member of the MSA is welcome. Will elect convenor in due course. Please let us know if you hear anything.

Benn: What has happened exactly?

Paul: Have been having troubles, but after they resigned, haven't been able to meet with convenors, though they arranged. Need to figure out the direction from here, President would probably be the most appropriate.

President: Stark difference of opinion. Due to nature, will discuss with people individually.

Savinna: Would Union put in volunteering website for the COI?

VPC: Yes. The Union will host but we're not running the volunteering. The way that we can help is through YOUNGO. Or I can get you involved myself - not a Union opportunity but happy to help people get involved.

c) President

President: Update on building move, will most likely be January 2021. No rent increases again - not overall, some halls will have investment, so rent will go up in that hall but others will go down so it will be zero. 3 years of no increases. Coming alongside a halls strategy, fight for investment in halls - looking at around £30million. What would you folks think the halls should look like?

Chelbi: Needs to be double beds. Wifi doesn't work in the rooms, have to use the ethernet.

Michael-Sam: Wifi better than it used to be. After complaints - do get wifi in personal rooms.

Sophie: Stayed in James Gould, sofas and TVs were awful.

Chelbi: If making the space useful - if you're paying so much but can't have people over, it's isolating. The beds are atrocious.

Ru: Bike storage in halls is terrible. No option unless it's outside.

Laoise: Stayed in private halls, it was nicer and cheaper.

Eyram: PBSAs seem to have more social activities. E.g. Burns night.

Michael-Sam: Don't agree with cost. Accommodation in Strathclyde is very poor. The difference with what other people are paying is £20-30. Not value for money.

Clodagh: Paid for a room with a sink - can't drink water in the sinks in the room, which made people ill. No signs - why are we paying more.

Sophie: Couldn't come up and see accommodation - not what was advertised. Had renovated other flats but not mine.

Chelbi: If shared toilets, need to be updated. Four people sharing a fridge, not enough room not good for meal planning.

President: Thanks for the feedback, back to update. Strike funding, trying to get the money that was saved from wages to go to Student Hardship. Last year, managed to get £125,000 incl. refugee fund. Looking at increasing international student hardship fund and also looking at Widening Access to PG. Circuit Laundry - taking them on. Proposed free laundry - launching a campaign. If you live in halls, feel free to get some promotional. Transport campaign - looking into the cost of transport, in collaboration with other Unions across the city. Over 3500 responses. Exam bunching in December, trying to mandate study break, will be raised at senate. Better than Zero - hosting an event about precarious work. Graham Campbell - wanting to give out honorary life membership, looking at giving it to a Glasgow city council member who has helped a lot. Particularly in relation to our Black History Month events, all of it unpaid.

3) Approval of Previous Minutes – 28th November

Minutes approved by reps

4) NUS UK and Scotland Policy Proposal

a) Combatting food waste

Ru: One of the delegates, looking at NUS policy, nothing specific on climate issues. This one is about food waste. About 10m tonnes of food waste, 1m in Scotland. 70% in hospitality, which includes Unions. When food waste is not properly disposed of, can go to landfill and produce methane, which is a big part of the climate crisis. Can be disposed of properly or not wasted. The proposal calls for NUS to reduce food waste and educate others. Calls for NUS to investigate possibility for Unions about food waste and minimise food waste, and to support schemes that minimise food waste.

Chair invites questions

Michael-Sam: What kind of food are we talking about? Some students can bring things to foodbanks in Strathclyde etc.

Ru: This policy is not specific to ours, and not an expert on this, it's just about food waste.

Michael-Sam: Problem with food waste aligning with climate change. If wanting to push this is relation to CO2, most food is biodegradable, could go back into production. What I think people can do which is much more innovative is targeting those who need it. As union has foodbank, we can develop much more in relation to halls. This could be expanded to the community.

Chelbi: Work in bars, know that food gets reused, are there other ways that we can get others involved? E.g. nourish.

Sophie: Was involved in food-sharing - if you've made food yourself, you can't donate it. It has to be sealed food. Nourish would do things like offer up sandwiches to others.

Ru: As this is an NUS policy, it's a little different, as every Union is different. We will deal with Nourish and do more. If wanting to do more specific things, may be harder to do.

Sophie: Liked section about food-sharing, would be good to encourage people to do more. This is a great and easy way to eliminate food waste.

President: Strath Union has set a good example. Michael-Sam, may not be comfortable approving it as it sits, in the relation to the context of climate change?

Michael-Sam: To link it to climate change defeats the policy.

President: Could approve here and then amendments go to the exec perhaps? Take indicative vote on how we feel?

Michael-Sam: Food could be recycled, not just going out on the street. E.g. Nourish prepares food which could be re-heated. Household waste, beginning to concentrate more on climate when talking about food? Disputing the context, as it is focusing on Climate Change instead of food.

VPC: Don't disagree, but look at it in a different way. The problem with food waste occurring is that it is still bio gradable - if not disposed of properly, could be damaging. These initiatives solve two problems at once.

VPE: In relation to food-sharing, could add another point in relation to context.

Ru: Point 6 does mention that but could do more.

Sophie: Food-sharing and climate change, is that food being prepared is perfectly edible, which contributes to carbon footprint, if disposed of, wastes it.

President: Ask for us to vote on whether to decide right now, or whether we should submit to next week's exec committee and to have amendments.

Chair moves to a vote to decide whether to vote to on the policy now or to allow a week for amendments.

Vote now: 4 officers

Exec committee: 7 officers

Chair held an indicative vote on how people feel. All in favour of the policy.

Policy to be passed onto the next Executive Committee to amend the policy.
Executive committee will take place a week tomorrow, (Wednesday 5th February) Amendments 12noon Tuesday 4th February

5) Student Parliament Discussion:

President: Lewis was going to discuss a few things but they are not here.
Helpful to reflect on meeting and what else we want to do. Is there an update on code of conduct?

Vinny: Did discuss code of conduct and what to add and change.

VPC: Have bones of what was written to come back to Parliament.

ACTION Vinny, Benn, VPC, VPI to come up with a code of conduct for next student parliament.

President: How likely is it to stream, could we do it for the next parliament.
How to people feel about it?

Sophie: Good for accountability.

Leo: Put up signage at the meeting and just record officers.

VPC: If to livestream, would this affect quoracy.

Leo: No it wouldn't

President: If livestreamed, would change the nature of discussion. Could it go behind a login wall so have to log in as student. Are we happy to stream live?.

Sophie: Could have bulk livestreamed but have some bits which aren't livestreamed

Ru: If I knew there was a bit afterwards were people couldn't watch, it doesn't seem open.

Michael-Sam: Could show number of people voting, don't want to necessarily upset people. Could use information to show.

Ru: the whole point of this is accountability.

Benn: I would only be okay with livestreaming if access was behind a login wall. There are things that Student Reps might feel more comfortable saying in presence of peers instead of staff.

Chelbi: Good chance to share other bits of information.

ACTION: Investigate whether we can introduce Livestreaming before the next meeting. Make an online decision before the next Parliament.

Savinna: Is there any way that the video would still be available after the meeting?

Chelbi: Minutes go up anyway.

Leo: Rooms and layouts - how do we feel?

Sophie: Prefer it in the Lounge.

Clodagh: Debates is dark and intimidating.

Vinny: This feels more open

President: Any other points.

Savinna: Dept reps don't really know much. Could send info to all reps about this - they are probably interested in participating.

ACTION: Send invitation to class reps.

Benn: Getting some halls representation in Parliament.

President: Valuable point, could look at other things to improve. Clashing with Sports GM - keen to have discussions. Quoracy is still an issue.

Benn: Last student parliament, discussed non-executive rep accountability. Didn't action anything - any thoughts. Faculty reps already do accountability - could duplicate.

Leo: Lewis wanted to discuss today, looking at how attendance links to honorarium. We could create templates for non-exec officers.

ACTION: Create template, circulate in advance of next Parliament.

VPE: Accountability can be done at sub committees. Would be good to bring back. Though some committees not functioning as much.

President: Would like to hear more. Reports submitted then any questions to officers.

Benn: Previously discussed template of motions. Older templates created better quality motions. Current format quite rigid.

Action: Benn, Adam, Lewis to discuss Parliament policy proposal template.

Chelbi: If I would like to submit something to NUS, how to go about?

President: Submit something to exec.

No AOCB. Chair thanks everyone for closes the meeting