



Student Parliament 1

30.10.2018

Members Present

Alan Shaw	Daniel Carlin	Kerr Sewell	Orlagh McKeeman
Alice Tod	Daniel Corrigan	Lauryn Reid	Paddy Mukasa
Ariadne Raduconu	Emily McIlhatton	Lewis Barclay	Penny Leake
Ayssas Qazikhel	Finn Deans	Luke Burring	Rebekah Holmes
Ben Taylor	Hannah O'Neill	Max McKay	Rosie Smith
Benn Rapson	James Ferns	Michael Kiernan	Ruth O'Shea
Bohdan Starosta	Jamie McGowan	Michael O'Neill	Sarah Weaver
Catherine Deighan	John Kaifala	Nairne Clark	Sophie Gwynne
Catherine Farrelly	Joshua McCormick	Nicola Biggerstaff	Thomas Craig
Ciara Conway	Julia Swann	Nuala McBride	

DPO: Daniel Awomukwu

Staff Support: Leo Howes, Adam Crawley, Kyle Scott

1. Introduction

DPO introduced the meeting

DPO stated that voting guides are online and that voting will be done electronically at this meeting.

2. Approval of previous minutes

DPO confirms that the minutes are online and it is important to look at them.

Minutes approved.

3. Executive Accountability

a. Vice President Diversity

No questions.

Report approved

b. Vice President Education

No questions. **Approved.**

c. Vice President Sports & Wellbeing

No questions. **Approved.**



d. Vice President Support

Bohdan: BBC article that Strathclyde has been the only uni in Scotland that has cut mental health funding.

John: It is important issue to him and he is aware of the article and there is a joint mental health campaign.

Bohdan: The campaign perhaps isn't the best as it is in conjunction with the university as it is they have the cut the funding?

John: We will be reviewing the policy and perhaps working with the uni.

Bohdan: They are part time students. Postgrad fees keep rising, any plans to deal with that? Student mental health is on the rise and student welfare can be improved.

John: Increasing fees, we have raising issues with the working group and Matt is also working on that.

Bohdan: Can you present the results of these inquiries at the next parliament?

John: Yes we will be transparent.

No further questions. **Approved**

e. Vice President Volunteering & Development

Updates parliament on the paintings in the building, updates parliament on the sanctuary and encourages students to get involved. No questions. **Approved**

f. President

Have secured a significant amount of money for a hardship fund for students. working on how the money will be spent. Can help widening access students across a lot of initiatives. President is working to abolish graduation fees. **Approved**

4. Trustee Board

a. Policy Update

Speech for

Matt explains that there was a complaint regarding the 'No Platform to Anti Choice!' policy.

Following an investigation, the Trustee Board recommends that Parliament ratify the decision to remove USSA resolves 1) from the policy which states "Anti-choice groups should not be affiliated to, funded or promoted by the University of Strathclyde Students' Association."

If we vote against it, trustee board will seek additional legal counsel and may have to remove the clause regardless.

DPO moves for a debate.



Speech Against

Benn Rapson: I want to speak against the recommendation. Wished a woman was the first person to speak on the issue. Will never seek to deny a woman's right to choose. Will always stand against individuals who wish to remove that. Understands the role and recommendation of the trustee board, in principal will not vote for it and because it is law then it is still not right for them to exist. Pro-life organisations can be very intimidating for vulnerable women and the student union has a duty of care. What does it say about the union if we allow anyone to affiliate and we can spiral out of control if we ratify this recommendation.

Speech For

Lewis: The issue we are debating here today is not women's right to abortion. We are debating that clubs and societies should be free to affiliate. Highlights that union's obligation to allowing equal access to all students. What about the CU if they raised the issue, would be a protected characteristic? Failure to allow the society to affiliate would be a failure to uphold policy.

Speech against

Julia: For the motion. A bit ridiculous not to have a women or a person with a womb to talk about this issue. It is complex due to legal. My point is that we should make a statement in principal. Despite legal action threats, the Students' Union exists to represent and protect the wellbeing of students. Would be long to give a platform to a group that would not protect student wellbeing. Suggests that students should vote against removing it on principal.

Matt: Extra information. We are not voting on the society's affiliation; this is a vote on this policy.

DPO rejects secondary call for extra information.

Catherine: I'd like to point out that the policy discriminates against people who hold pro-life views and that this affects Catholics. Contravenes university and union policy and law. This is a free speech issue. Understands that it could be harmful women, need discussion from both sides, both sides supporting women and we should have an open discussion and this would be good for women. I intend for this society to support women.

Bohdan: Parliament should maybe not be the best place to vote. Should we send this to a referendum.

Jamie: If this were go to a referendum, we would still go legal action.

DPO goes to vote.

FOR: 48%

AGAINST: 48%

ABSTAIN: 5%



NB: Percentages are rounded up through the online voting system.

As the vote is tied, the DPO has the deciding vote. DPO votes in favour to ratify the trustee board's recommendation. This recommendation is ratified.

b. Ratification of new trustees

Matt introduced, appointment committee is mainly led by students:

Paul Bradley, previously in charge of policy and democracy in Edinburgh and would be great addition to the board.

Kelly McIntyre-Greene is involved in community shares and innovative thinking person.

Colin McNab would be helping with our marketing, owns his own company in marketing and is more focused on the commercial side.

Short statements are on the website.

Bohdan: Has there been background checks?

Matt: Yes, highlights the previous external trustee last year and that this year there isn't anything that has been flagged.

DPO goes to a vote:

FOR: 85%

AGAINST: 9%

ABSTAIN: 6%

The new trustees are ratified.

5. Student Parliament Proposal – Online Ballot

Speech For

Matt: This comes in light of a democratic review in the SU and the driving force is to engage more students in participating. Interested to think about what everyone thinks about it, some students would have loved to be here but unfortunately could not be. Designed to improve democracy and take us digital.

Speech against

Benn Rapson: For the record, we should look at some rule about students turn up in groups and then leave. Getting a motion to parliament, getting up and speaking and is already a lot of work to begin with. This is an extra layer of pressure to get motions done. I am in favour increasing engagement but in order to increase engagement we should get people to parliament. This motion is not clear when a motion is at the middle range. We already have a system for referendums, this is creating a new field of votes and it is not clear how this would work for campaigns. It is not clear on who would run the campaigns for both sides and would create extra issues for students.



Concerned that motions getting overturned by a small amount of people when the vote falls within the middle range.

Ayssas: If this policy does pass, how long will students have to vote? If it is online how long would it be open for?

DPO clarified that currently they do not have a time, if parliament votes in favour then we will research in to what time policy.

Ayssas: could the motion be put to parliament when that research is conducted?

DPO: It has to be a decision made by the house, the house will set it out.

Bohdan: Defer to next parliament and create a working group.

Julia: It has not been sufficiently designed to then present it as a formal policy.

DPO: If parliament is not satisfied and we could defer with more research to come back with a further proposal.

Vote deferred to next meeting.

DPO: If you want to be part of the working group then come to us after the meeting.

6. Policy Proposals

a. Student Partnership Agreement

Speech for:

Matt: gave context behind to SPA. This SPA was working on by previous VPE, in consultation with university staff. We have been tasked to pick this up this year as it wasn't brought up as a vote last year. Want to hear thoughts for and against.

Speech against

Bohdan: Was part of process when this was being designed last year. It has been mostly written by the University and the consultation only generated by 7 students and the document hasn't been seen by students. I am not going to pass it since I haven't seen it prior.

DPO move to a vote.

FOR: 23%

AGAINST: 47%

ABSTAIN: 30%

The motion does not pass.

b. Strath Union Supports Striking Students

Speech for:

Benn Rapson: Designed to give our union to give a clear mandate to support our students in instances in their struggle. When one of us has a struggle, we should all



show solidarity. It's not to say that the union doesn't show solidarity, sometimes it is slow. We have a duty of care and a duty of care to the broader student body. Support this policy.

Question from members: Would we support any strike action? Concerns that the last strike was very political and that we should look at them on a case by case basis?

Benn: The motion is very clear that it is struggles that the student exec identifies with high levels of student population. 1st issue is that it is a student union and this is supporting students. 2nd point, in the case of the last point that strike was called by the members and the grass roots and we should have supported.

No speeches against.

DPO moved to a vote.

FOR: 56%

AGAINST: 25%

ABSTAIN: 19%

This motion is passed.

7. Lapsing Policy

It was decided that exec will go through the policies and examine them to see if they are out of date, they will then present this to the next parliament.

Bohdan: What will happen at next parliament?

DPO confirmed that they would go through the lapsing policy at the next meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 27th November

9. AOCB

Nikki: Did not appreciate conduct of members of parliament who left the meeting and they had no consideration of the democratic process.

DPO: This is my first time chairing this parliament and from what I have seen so far and I've been to meetings that involved throwing chairs and punches and what I would say is that at the next meeting it will be better and that it has gone well.

DPO closed the meeting