



Student Parliament 2

27.11.2018

Members Present

Adedayo Asaolu	Eyram Ahadzie	Matt Crilly
Alex Brock	J A Disotto	Max McKay
Andy Cunningham	James Ferns	Nairne Clark
Benn Rapson	Jessica Alexander	Nicola Biggerstaff
Bohdan Starosta	John Agbonrofo	Odira Atueyi
Callum Ogilvie	Jordan Zanchetta	Oisin Pircher
Daniel Awomukwu	Joseph Scullion	Rosie Smith
Daniel Carlin	Julia Swann	Sara Cowan
Daniel Corrigan	Kyle Scott	Stephen Ugwuanyi
Dean Corrigan	Lauryn Reid	T S Ajayi
Emily McIlhatton	Lewis John Munro	Titi Farukuoye
Enas Magzuob	Lewis John Tait	Zoya Khan
Erin Samuel		

DPO: Daniel Awomukwu

Staff Support: Leo Howes, Adam Crawley, Kyle Scott

1. Introduction

DPO introduces himself and explains voting procedure. DPO explains that speeches and presentations will be time limited.

2. Approval of previous minutes

Bohdan: Would like minutes to be updated to reflect the statements made by Jamie McGowan and that he openly admitted he was holding the parliament to ransom and that they walked out of the meeting after the vote.

Minutes approved with amendment.

3. Updates from Parliament sub-committees:

DPO invited the Chairs of each Parliament sub-committee to provide an update.

a. Education Committee – 23.10.2018



VPE: Three main issues were discussed. There was a discussion on faculty reps, some positions were filled and others were co-opted and thus most have been filled. There were two different issues on assessment and feedback and extensions, all concerns have been raised to the working group and different strategies are being discussed and being considered. Queues in the library for printing and Turnitin, want to shift deadline so it does not fall on one week. Next semester with different faculty rep drop ins and faculty rep hoodies to raise awareness.

Student (name not called): Just want to know how we can get the faculty level to have department level and to make sure every voice counts.

VPE: Prior structure had department reps and it wasn't well facilitated, lack of communication between reps and the department reps didn't fit within the university structures but we are looking how we could improve engagement.

b. Sports General Meeting – 23.10.2018

VPSW: There are issues with transport, higher instances of crashes and have identified a different amount of models for education for this. Strathclyde University has different sizes of vans for driving to Stepps etc, asking to use the carpark on Sundays at the field that can be used for training. Securing floodlights for Stepps, as well as having secured funding to match the quality of the pitches. Alongside that, the topic of Sports Union independence and we are having a consultation – we want to ensure we have the best student experience and we want to have an open discussion. Current situation is that we need to think of our strategic aim for the long term.

c. Equality and Diversity Committee – 8.11.2018

VPD: Our committee has a new range of officer roles elected, a lot of conversations about how we work and how we develop a network. This month is disability history month with a gallery on tomorrow, beyond the binary as part of 16 days of activism. We had the fight for the night march last Friday with FemSoc and it was a highlight with a great turn out.

Bohdan: I am the elected co-convenor for the Mature Students' Association (MSA), can we get in touch with the MS officer.

VPD: I have highly encouraged that and the reason why it hasn't happened is a lack of time.

James: What would have been good if we at the MSA actually had a role in electing representatives?

VPD: We have a formal system and it was widely publicised. It will come naturally and it was not meant to be imposed on you at all. There are two seats on the committee so that they can bring a member of that liberation group.



d. Clubs and Societies General Meeting – 12.11.2018

VPVD: Introduced the SPA and consulted clubs socs at the meeting. Addressed Q's on that and reached out to them for consultation. Presented Club of the Week, which was Gliding Club, and previously has included SUMSA, Flying Club and Pharmacy Society. Presented a consultation on the new union and opened it to clubs and societies. Issues raised were storage, performance and meeting spaces. If your club or soc has any pressing concerns please get in touch. Level 5 is now being run with a specific floor plan and level 5 should be in that set up. Few more opportunities: Rent E-Bike, E-Vehicle from co-wheels, free first aid training for club and socs through SMILE and 100 santa sacks for elderly in Glasgow, collection point in Recharge. Volunteer awards in March, nominate yourself on website.

No questions.

4. Executive Accountability

a. Vice President Diversity

VPD: As this month is disability history month, we have an exhibition on tomorrow. We have our 16 days of activism coming up. I am trying to work on structures around reporting sexual harassment and gender violence and I will report on that in the future.

James: A questions between VP Diversity and VP Education, in relation to raising awareness of students with disabilities and assessment. Currently, marking work is not anonymous and it should be. As tutors we are supposed to receive information on specific disabilities that affect their capabilities. Sheffield has excellent policy on this.

VPD: We can get together and discuss that for things coming forward.

b. Vice President Education

VPE: Working on the Student Partnership Agreement, which was presented at the first parliament it was voted against, plans going forward is for different levels of consultation and we are giving students the opportunity to feed it in to the process. Presented this to student congress. We had workshops and a standalone ask the principal session, we have a link on the Website under VPE with an opportunity to ask the principal questions in which Matt will sit down with the principal to put the questions to them. For Student Congress, we are focusing on class reps training. Going forward we are looking for careers and employability, post grad experience with workshops and skill development.

c. Vice President Sports & Wellbeing

VPSW: There are snagging issues with the Sports Union's new facility. Two issues with clubs not getting access. November has been about wellbeing and giving, and clubs have been doing events; Snowsports raised £1000, Women's hockey raised £1200 for cancer charity, netball raised money for SAMH, overall £16,000 and over 100kg for foodbank. Tomorrow is rainbow laces day in collaboration with stonewall to show that we support engagement at all levels in sport.



d. Vice-President Support

VPS: In line with manifesto in creating a supporting community, free first aid training for all students, organised a series of training: safe talks and look after your mates. In line with improving the community feel with a monthly birthday celebration to tackle social isolation. Summer internship with collaboration with career services. Working on the job shop, working on the mental health agreement and in January with another welfare week to bring all events together.

Bohdan: Had three separate questions. Some councillors have not passed their PVGs. What was the development with waiting times for councillors? And what is being done around PG Fees

VPS: Waiting time has been reduced due to an extension of opening hours of the services.

Bohdan: How much has it been reduced by?

VPS: Matt will update the figure.

Bohdan: Has the issue of PVG been fixed?

VPS: I am aware of it.

Benn: Struck by the lack of content in your video in comparison, shortest video still went in to more detail. How are you supporting students facing hardships and what efforts are you doing to work with externals?

VPS: We are working with external housing companies. And we are working on safety students.

Benn: What are you doing to support student hardship?

VPS: Working on financial empowerment to develop skills and jobs for students.

Benn: Seems that some of the things that you mention a lot involve other officers and it seems that things in your remit is covered by other VPs. What are you doing to support students facing homeless?

VPS: We are working with externals to provide housing for students.

e. Vice President Volunteering and Development

VPVD: One of the main things is working with VPE on feedback. Looking to provide a way to give ongoing feedback. Looking to make GoGlobal and I am continuing it for widening access students. Foodsharing on level 2, we are looking to expand it with a funding application. Planning for volunteer awards. Working with VPD on 16 Days of Activism and for Fight for the Night. Working with women in leadership network about an international women's award as well as working on e-Bikes and sustainability.



f. President

President: Key issues from last parliament are ongoing. Biggest victory is securing £125,000 for hardship funds but still trying to get the money transferred. Money should be transferred by next week, should be in place by January and it will be controlled by the advice hub the student union for them and we will now have a pot out with the uni services. It widens participation, gives students assistance with gym prices and textbooks. Short term accommodation secured.

Jess: Participation fund has been exhausted already. Can you shed any light as to why and can we replenish that?

Matt: Participation fund only had £1000 which is why I have been pushing for different grants. Seek to get 50k when we get the cash transferred. If a student with difficulties comes forward, we will still help them out.

Also confirmed that the waiting time for counselling is two weeks for assessment, with provision for immediate counselling.

Julia: Two week waiting period is not happening, is still a lot longer than that.

5. Policy Motions

a. Vital, Cherished and More Frequent

Speech for:

Benn: This motion includes an amendment to Schedules and will need approval from the Trustee Board. In the amendment Parliament would have to be held monthly. Last year, for a variety of reasons, we only had three meetings of Student Parliament and this is not acceptable for Student Parliament. Student parliament is topical. Commitment to have union host a student parliament during freshers.

No speech against, DPO moves to a vote.

FOR: 77%

ABSTAIN: 13%

AGAINST: 10%

This motion passes.

b. Strath Union Supports a Student Finance Revolution

Speech for:

Benn: This motion calls for Strath Union to advocate a student living income to replace the current loans finance system. A living income would be universal so that it can support students in living their lives. Student debt in Scotland has been rising. We advocate that a living income would be beneficial to Scotland. We would propose a motion to NUS Scotland to advocate to this. Exec members should advocate to University UK.



No speech against, DPO moves to a vote.

FOR: 71%

ABSTAIN: 24%

AGAINST: 6%

This motion passes.

c. Strath Union's Response to the Financial Difficulties of the National Union of Students

Speech for:

Daniel: You may be aware that we are part of NUS and recently posted poor financial position. We choose to be a member of that. We are looking at a £3m deficit and looking for advice for solvency issues. That's a general and concerning statement; tonight NUS are hosting the Strategic Conversation and will then be put to NUS National Conference. I believe that is not enough time, we should press them to see what the outcomes are and what these cuts are. In a horrible situation that it goes solvent, we should adopt a contingency plan.

NUS has been running a deficit since 2008 and April is too long to wait. NUS should look to individuals and before making cuts to staff and services, could look to cut salaries to president and CEO when you are running such a deficit and conference has failed to resolve it.

No speech against, DPO moves to a vote.

FOR: 85%

ABSTAIN: 12%

AGAINST: 3%

This motion passes.

d. Post Study Work Visa Now

Speech For

VPD: Post study work visa and is a Scottish national campaign and it demands to bring the post study work visa back. Calls us to lobby Westminster lobby as we stand in support of our international students and we don't want them to be cash cows for our institutions. This policy will let Strath Union support it.

No speech against, DPO moves to a vote

FOR: 94%

ABSTAIN: 3%

AGAINST: 3%

This motion passes.



e. Commitment to Pro-Choice

Speech For

Julia: The purpose of this motion is replace existing policy. People facing unwanted pregnancies have to travel to other countries to have abortions. The Union exists as a support network for students. Anti-abortion propaganda is dangerous and visually disturbing and exists as misogynistic propaganda. This Union should not have to depoliticise in the face of legal threats. This is not about free speech and is not an attack on this. We welcome further involvement Student Parliament. This policy will prevent students from being exposed to this dangerous propaganda.

DPO invited questions from the floor:

Student (name not called): Does previous legal advice still apply?

Julia: This new policy will have no legal implications.

Matt: The opinion of a lawyer on the trustee board is that this policy does not breach the law.

Daniel: Only came online to view yesterday. Has there been enough time for people to come and vote for this? It's a slight on the actual democracy and there is something weird about how this has happened.

Julia: Understand the concerns, we submitted before deadline and there were issues with terminology and amendments were made and has been ongoing within notice. As far as I know, the previous group are aware and have chosen not to be here.

Daniel: Has there been time for people to read it? Shouldn't be voted on tonight because it highlights the democratic problem with parliament. Why are you only bringing this up now? To do it in this manner is upsetting for democracy, should be for the whole Students Union.

DPO moves to a speech against the motion.

Speech against:

Stephen: I think there is an issue with the timeframe, we should not vote on this at this time. It is saying that the union should not support pro-life groups. This is against my faith. And we need to move this discussion wider than parliament and it is a matter of timeframe.

DPO offers an extra round of speeches.

Speech for:

Bohdan: Firstly, we are only voting it because there was a legal challenge. We were talking about free speech. This group is clearly well resourced and their legal advisor was bullying people into voting them. The point is that this policy was past historically and this is just a reword. Hasn't been made available as we were seeking legal advice to ensure that it does not breach the law. It should not be done on the



shadow of a legal threat and that messes with our democratic process. If the group wants it repealed, then they will come and have that debate they only want to debate free speech.

No speech against, DPO moves to a vote:

FOR: 71%

ABSTAIN: 21%

AGAINST: 9%

This motion passes.

6. Online Ballot proposal:

DPO: In the last meeting, the Online Ballot Proposal was put forward and it was decided that more research and consultation were needed. There was a working group and we discussed how long it should stay open, and should it be part of the referendum schedule, the voting margins etc. More work is needed before presenting back to Parliament, if any student wishes to get involved contact a member of Democracy support staff or the DPO.

7. Lapsing policy

DPO explained that unfortunately, the Exec weren't able to meet to provide recommendations (President apologises for this). The process is to go through each policy in turn and if you would like to retain this policy, you will need to speak in favour of it.

(A summary of the retained and lapsed policy can be found at the end of this document)

- *External Sponsorship Policy*

Jess: Union provides societies with support in funding seeking externals and sponsorship. Benefits student groups.

FOR: 87%

AGAINST 6%

ABSTAIN 6%

This policy is retained.

- *Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games*

No comments. This policy lapses.

- *The Glasgow Cup*

VPSW: This is the sports event for the year, competition between GU and GCU and seeking to involve UWS. Enhances the community of Strathclyde.



FOR 100%

ABSTAIN 0%

AGAINST 0%

- *Supporting a healthy lifestyle*

No comments. This policy lapses.

- *Wednesday Afternoons Free*

VPSW: Had meetings with the Uni, this policy does focus on sports clubs but looking to expand it to all student groups.

FOR 94%

ABSTAIN 6%

AGAINST 0%

This policy is retained.

- *Charging for course materials*

Emily: This has been raised by class and faculty reps, shouldn't see it lapsed. Students that face hardships and the union should make sure that the core materials are provided.

FOR: 97%

ABSTAIN: 0%

AGAINST 3%

This policy is retained.

- *Equality and Diversity Committee*

No comments. This policy lapses.

- *Mature Student Support*

No comments. This policy lapses.

- *Tuition fees for students adversely affected by world events*

VPD: In support of international students. In support for refugee and asylum students have the same fees as home students. Money transfers were difficult in their home countries due to government issues at home.

FOR 97%

ABSTAIN 3%

AGAINST 0%

This policy is retained.



- *Women's rights in the world*

VPD: Continue to support women being able to stand up for the rights and for societies. Encourage women to stand up for elections and in structures.

FOR 97%

ABSTAIN 3%

AGAINST 0%

This policy is retained.

- *Removal of exam bunching*

Bohdan: Former VPE, this has been a problem for many years and is still a problem now. It is a continuing issue.

FOR 97%

ABSTAIN 0%

AGAINST 3%

This policy is retained.

- *HEAR Policy*

VPE: Companies in the sector recognise this form of award and more work needs done.

FOR 86%

ABSTAIN 10%

AGAINST 4%

Continuing to increase postgrad representation

VPE: Postgrad numbers continue to increase and we need to maintain support. For, 96, against 4, abstain 0. Retained.

- *Inclusivity of Trans-National Students*

No comments. This policy lapses.

- *Encouraging students to participate in the 2014 Referendum Debate*

No comments. This policy lapses.

- *Widening Access at Strathclyde*

President: Vote in favour of this motion:

FOR 100%

ABSTAIN 0%

AGAINST 0%



This policy is retained.

- *Relocation of USSU*

No comments. This policy lapses.

NUS Scotland Activities & Development Network

Jess: They are going bust anyway.

This policy lapses.

Support for Malawi.

No comments. This policy lapses.

8. Date of next meeting

DPO confirms that the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 5th February 2019. This date might change due to the policy passed tonight, and parliament will be informed of any changes.

9. AOCB

Chair thanks everyone for the manner and cooperation.

Table of lapsed and retained policy

Policy which LASED	Policy which was RETAINED
<i>The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games</i>	<i>External Sponsorship Policy</i>
<i>Supporting a Healthy Lifestyle</i>	<i>The Glasgow Cup</i>
<i>Equality & Diversity Committee</i>	<i>Wednesday Afternoons Free</i>
<i>Mature Students Support</i>	<i>Charging for Course Materials</i>
<i>Inclusivity of Trans-National Students</i>	<i>Tuition fees for students adversely affected by World Events</i>
<i>Encouraging students to participate in the 2014 Referendum Debate</i>	<i>Women's rights in the world</i>
<i>Relocation of USSA</i>	<i>Removal of Exam Bunching</i>
<i>NUS Scotland Activities & Development Network</i>	<i>HEAR Policy</i>
<i>Support for Malawi</i>	<i>Continuing to increase postgraduate representation</i>
	<i>Widening access at Strathclyde</i>