



Student Parliament 3

22/1/19

Alex Brock	James Ferns	Max McKay
Andy Cunningham	James Whittle	Richard Lane
Benjamin Taylor	John Agbonrofo	Sam Gordon
Benn Rapson	Jonathan Failman	Sara Cowan
Bohdan Starosta	Keith Burns	Savvina Kritharidou
Caius Reza	Kyle Scott	Sophie Gwynne
Daniel Awomukwu	Lewis McDermont	Stephen Ugwuanyi
Emily McIlhatton	Louise Mckeever	Titi Farukuoye
Ewan Hamilton	Marina Kokkinou	Zoya Khan
Eyram Ahadzie	Matt Crilly	Su Yuheng
Fiona McNicol		

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.

DPO rearranged the agenda so that the items that needed voted on came first

2. Approval of previous minutes

DPO takes the minutes as read. No questions

Minutes approved.

3. Amendments to Schedules – *for ratification*

These amendments were discussed as one.

Matt, President: We are amending election schedules as we have conducted a review in the Full Time officers in the SU. This was done with an external consultant. Everyone that has attended parliament were invited to take part in the research. Consultant's recommendations were a bit too radical for our institution so the exec



team sat down to talk about what other changes could be made. We are making and explains that the schedules are being changed to reflect the role descriptions.

Sara, VPVD: We did do a lot of investigation and one of the ideas is to bring in a flatter structure. We haven't had a female president in so long, we have only had one. I think a flatter structure would be more inclusive to women and ensure they are represented. Looking at Manchester Student's union has a general secretary, it works as a flatter structure and as a team. I just want to bring this to your attention for consideration whilst you vote.

Matt, President: I think we should we encourage women in leadership, I hope my successor is female. I would say though, Stalin is a general sec, Mao was a general sec, the title doesn't make a difference they were still seen as a presidency. Presidency role was seen as the most understood on campus. It is also the most democratically legitimate and generates the most votes on campus.

DPO moves to a vote and explains that the vote is to ratify the amendments to the Schedules

a. Election Schedules

APPROVE: 72%

ABSTAIN: 14%

AGAINST: 14%

This amendment was ratified.

b. Roles Description

APPROVE: 66%

ABSTAIN: 21%

AGAINST: 14%

This amendment was ratified.

4. Policy Motions

a. Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Sara, VPVD: A Freedom of Information request shows that 9% of total investments at the Strathclyde University go to fossil fuels. We know that fossil fuels are the leading cause of climate change. This gives us the opportunity to work with other unions on divestment campaigns. I think it is important that we pass this motion so that we can campaign for them to sign this pledge to full divestment, this is the perfect time to move this.



Speech against: None.

DPO moves to a vote.

APPROVE: 82%

ABSTAIN: 7%

AGAINST: 11%

This motion was passed.

b. Mature Students Support with the Students' Union

Bhodan: This motion is being submitted on the back of the lapsed motion which has now lapsed. Mature Students Association (MSA) used to be something like 50, now we have moved, we have a lot more facilities and nearly 600 members annually and we have 24 access. This is run entirely by volunteers who are trying to help the needs of the ever expanding mature students on campus but this is at breaking point. The union should reconsider the status of MSA as a club or society and see it as an extension of the Union, like sports. That way we can have access to staff support to support us in our expansions. Students will still be in control of the MSA. We want to have a staff member to oversee our facilities and the facilities see more usage in peak times, like exams etc. Volunteers can't cope at crunch times.

Speech Against: None

DPO moves to a vote

APPROVE: 75%

ABSTAIN: 7%

AGAINST: 11%

This motion was passed.

c. Wednesday afternoons

Alex, VPSW: Since joining Strathclyde in 2013, every single year someone has been saying we should have wed afternoons free. The sports perspective is to fit within how BUCS operates their sports competitions. More than just sports students will benefit from this, this could be for every student to develop themselves. Especially in transferrable skills in employment. This motion will move Strath Union to push the University on this policy, like what is at place at Durham. Students in peer review classes need permission to attend BUCS events, when they are in classes on wed afternoons. We are looking for a day of action. This will also allow those who are financially struggling to look for a part-time job, as their availability on weekends is limited.



The policy is to have no classes on Wednesday afternoons scheduled, we do have limited spaces on campus. Ideally we want no classes; what we want is no mandatory classes and if they are mandatory then they can be delivered through other means like video etc.

Sabrina: Would this mean more sports clubs happening on Wednesdays, sometimes they clash with each other.

Alex, VPVD: This is for matches as training days are separate.

Speech against: None

DPO moves to a vote:

APPROVE: 96%

ABSTAIN: 0%

AGAINST: 4%

This motion was passed.

d. Abolish graduation fees

Matt, President: We have a commitment that they will be scrapped and this is waiting for an announcement this week. The money that they get from the fees doesn't go to the ceremony anyway, and the ceremonies will be expanded. Vote in favour of this motion just in case anything goes wrong.

Speech against: None

DPO moves to a vote

APPROVE: 100%

ABSTAIN: 0%

AGAINST: 0%

This motion was passed.

5. NUS Scotland Conference proposal.

a. NUS Scotland Supports a Living Income

Benn: I was here last time for a similar motion to the Strath Union, which passed, but this one is for NUS Scotland. This policy is to replace the system of student loans with a living income for students which is happening in other countries. This saves students from having to work while in education, student loan debt is going up 13% to year and this is a better alternative.

Andy: Are you advocating for a min wage?



Benn: This will completely replace the loan system, students will be given an income, essentially being paid to be a student so that a student doesn't have to work to maintain themselves in university. This is to move us to a system of students being students.

Sabrina: Is this for students in Scotland?

Benn: Would apply to the existing system but could be amendments at NUS, if that concern is raised at NUS then it would be voted on then. I

Stephen: Is this realistic?

Benn: More than enough money in society for this to go ahead. Evidence suggests that this actually good for the economy.

Student (name not recalled): Is there any support for this?

Benn: Scot gov are looking at a general one, as is labour party.

Max: Other EU countries do this, payment goes to rent etc.

Student (name not recalled): Is there plans for where this money comes from?

Benn: Don't want to get into a discussion about NUS finances, but that is a discussion for government to sort out the finances.

Student (name not recalled): Is it for Scot and Euro students?

Benn: This motion is for Scottish policy, this could potentially go to NUS UK Conference, but this is only for Scot and EU. To avoid concerns for international students, this would allow the university to provide more support for international students as they would have to pay less bursaries to other students.

Speech Against: None

DPO moves to a vote:

APPROVE 87%

AGAINST: 9%

ABSTAIN: 4%

This motion was passed and will be referred to NUS Scotland Conference

6. Executive accountability

These were provided as verbal updates

a. Titi, Vice President Diversity

Loads of my time since we came back has been spent doing officer review, in particular part time officers. Looking at ways to how support them and fit them in the structure and trying to poll as many people as possible on that. Let me know how you feel on liberation officers. LGBT history months coming, the panel event on 50



years since stonewall. There will be a human library and exhibition etc. Working with societies on International Women's Day, nominations are open so nominate yourself or a friend. Holocaust memorial day is coming up, has been linking up with history society.

b. Eyram, Vice President Education

Been looking at Assessment and Feedback, pushing for policy changes and how post grad students are being supported, wages and space etc. Pushing for an improved career service and more diverse events as well as looking for a better career strategy. We have launched a job shop in Strath Union. This semester I will spend a lot of time on ELIR, student members are needed so get in touch if you are interested.

c. Alex, Vice President Sports & Wellbeing

Has four main points; Has got floodlights out on Stepps pitches. They are finalising timetables for fixtures. Currently engaging with Erasmus: went around to speak to Erasmus students, come and try events, facilities tour and a bus trip around Glasgow best bars etc and this will hopefully be continued throughout semester. Strathclyde teams have booked out times between 9am and 9pm but trying to sort out the sports ball event. Also working on the Sports Union consultation, met with Sports exec and had a first meeting today. We are looking to talk about the best support of SU expansion and it has been very exciting and we will feed that back in to the SU. We want the best result possible. Also been running This Strath Girl Can and working with VPD on homophobia in sports. Working alongside Strath facilities to offer scholarships to UK and international students.

Student (Name not recalled): Maybe for the following year, the fees to be a bit cheaper as they are too expensive.

Alex, VPSW: Wholeheartedly agree upon that, they are ridiculous. Overall, 93k came from block grant and 96k came from members and we want to change that.

d. John, Vice President Support

We had the health and wellbeing event in Dec with support centres, which publicised how students can look after their health. Signposted students to health and wellbeing support. We have held our monthly Birthday celebration to foster community, and another one is taking place this Friday. Wellbeing week for students is on now, which shows how they can meet their wellbeing or safety needs, legal rights, finance. Signposting to students as to where they can receive support services. Having a review on the training available to students on mental health, an online survey will be out soon. The idea is to ensure we have a holistic training format and this will put it all in perspective and lots of training has been organised. Developing a new training regime, looking after your mate but related to Strath University.



e. Sara, Vice President Volunteering & Development

Hosting a workshop on the divestment policy, we want more student voices on that campaign. Working with Strathclyde women in leadership campaign, so please feel free to nominate yourself or a friend. If you are interested in anything else, email me or check Facebook.

f. Matt, Strath Union President

Graduation fees has been number one issue. Alex and I will be doing the Wednesday afternoon campaign together to achieve this. Had interview with principal, asked questions from student body and it was recorded. Let's hope that nothing was cut! Working with architects on the new debates chamber, it's costing the university 250k right off the bat and that bill will get higher for additional facilities. We want elevated platforms on the bar which isn't currently on the building. Looking at the block grant, sports isn't getting a large chunk, so we will be negotiating. Looking for next big thing, if you have an idea let me know.

Shared information on Facebook concerning an extension of the they are breaking into the Curran building, level 3 will be done this summer but its not a massive space. There will be windows and plugs. Pushing for microwaves and kettles. Spoke about renovating level 2 but don't know how quickly. Level 3 is the most important for the University and there will be a study room which is child friendly for student parents.

Student (Name not recalled): Is there entrance in level 6?

Matt, President: Don't think so, used to be available but it is no longer.

James: We are about to complete the UCU survey, workplace survey looking at working hours PHD students. The results are terrible and there is a lot of exploitation. PHD students can work up to 70 hours. Lecturers are choosing bad Assessment and feedback or working over the paid limits. We would like to campaign against this casualization.

Matt, President: Definitely up for that.

Bohdan: Still going to go with the post grad fees campaign, can still take a small section like the social care students. They don't get funding from SAAS but a separate organisation. A lot of these students have to work on top of their masters.

Matt, President: Launched the campaign last semester, Strathclyde University fiercely denied that was the case. The stats we had were higher than the University's data, they aren't willing to share and we are continuing to push it. Very difficult to win, University is a neoliberal institution that uses fees to facilitate their growth but we are hoping to keep the pressure on. It is a national problem and we do hope to have changes at Strath. Meeting with minister for HE and we are hoping for some data.



7. Date of Next Meeting - 19th February 2019

DPO confirms that the deadline for submission of agenda items and papers is midday Friday 8th February.

8. AOCB

No other business

DPO bring meeting to a close.