

Extraordinary Student Parliament

Tuesday 12th October, 17:00

Mandela Auditorium/Online

Officers in attendance: Kyle McGettigan (Democracy Convenor, Chair), Benn Rapson (President), Nesha Malone (VP Inclusion), Kirsty Bannatyne (Vice President Sport), Callum Barclay (UG Faculty Rep Science), Eva Curran (Women's Rep), Arran Lamont (UG Faculty Rep Business), Charlie Wilson (UG Faculty Rep Engineering), Lewis McDermott (VP Welfare), Liam Mosson (UG Faculty Rep HaSS), Savvina Kritharidou (Vice President Education), Aspen Lynch (Disabled Students' Rep), Ailidh Hamilton (LGBT+ Rep), Nathan Epemolu (BAME Students Rep), Sean Jamieson (Part-time Students Rep), Ru Wallace (VP Community), Iman Chaudry (PGT Faculty Rep Science), Louise Nicolson (PGT Faculty Rep HaSS)

Students in attendance: Zoe MacPherson, Shivani Tandon

Staff in attendance: Leo Howes (Head of Student Engagement), Adam Crawley (Policy & Campaigns Co-ordinator)

- 1) Welcome and Code of Conduct**
- 2) Approval of previous minutes**

Previous minutes have been approved.

3) Strath Union Statement on NUS affiliation- welcomes Benn

Benn – explains that this has come up from previous meeting.

No referendum proposal at the moment – getting a 5% threshold in November is difficult but should have referendum. Should reintroduce in March elections.

Issues with NUS – structural reform had impact, had an impact on NUS Scotland. Limited staff – NUS has been gutted.

NUS split into 2 part – Charity and consortium. Limits products in bars – impacts on carbon budget.

Do see change and NUS do good things. Statement says we're not having a referendum yet but says that there is a concern and mandates Union to bring it up with NUS. Happy to answer questions.

Callum: NUS Scotland wanted to be independent, would we still have a referendum. Still believe that there should be a choice on this.

Nathan: elaborate on benefits of NUS

Benn: Part of an alliance, campaigns on a national level – had some big movements. Still campaigns on national issues. Allows access to government. NUS UK has fewer benefits – as they are very different.

Eva: Has anyone approach NUS about the concerns?

Benn: Notes appetite for reform to change NUS Scotland.

Eva: If they're willing to reform, shouldn't that be better to work with them than tear away from them.

Benn: Agree – why we didn't call a referendum at this parliament.

Liam: Assuming the statement passes, how much weight do you think it would hold in making NUS change. If referendum votes to leave, what's the alternative.

Benn: Strathclyde is a major role in NUS and have a big impact – we took into national Union of students. Will raise alarm bells – looking at the trading services, biggest financial contributor. Should have another referendum: alternative is to partner with other Unions in Scotland to make an alliance. Could look into other trading consortiums.

Eva: understand the points, but feel like I have a positive view on NUS. Still feel that there's a point of view. Would like to stay – would like referendum to be neutral.

Nathan: Would like to see a lot more general information about this, this is new to a lot of people. If we want to put the referendum through will need to do work. Don't understand much about how it works. Believes that the information should be question on the

Chair: If there was a referendum, there should be a factsheet about this – outside of the arguments for and against, making decision outwith

Ru: the information needs to be unbiased. Focus about making the changes within – in good place to make changes.

Liam: When we speak about what NUS is done, sometimes feel like there haven't been much of an outcome. Personally don't feel like it's very effective, reform is good but cautious about how much reform impact could be. Agree that there has to be unbiased information. Unsure about. Would need a radical overhaul

Benn: Has been some wins, notes that the limitations are probably about the support for staff. Matt NUS President is in favour of an independent union.

Liam: A reformed NUS would be an improvement – cautious about whether statement and talk might have limited impact.

Benn: If this passes, believe that this will have impact.

Ailidh: Agree with points that reform need to happen, students know very little. Information needs to go out.

Callum: UG Faculty Rep –

Eva: More about working together to make change.

Charlie: What is the timeframe/minimum amount of change?

Louise: Are the reforms required to make a successful NUS realistic/financially viable given their current circumstances?

Benn: responding.

Zoe: There are a few issues, we would need the focusses back and

14 votes in favour, this statement has passed. Benn will keep us updated on the results.

DC thanks attendees

AGM