

Agenda
Student Parliament 4
Monday 16 February 2026
Level 8 Open Space, Strathclyde Student Union

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Democracy Convenor

- a. Members Present: President, VP Community, VP Education, VP Sport, Faculty Rep Business PGT, Faculty Rep Business PGR, Faculty Rep Engineering UG, Faculty Rep Engineering PGT, Faculty Rep Engineering PGR, Faculty Rep HaSS UG, Faculty Rep HaSS PGT, Faculty Rep HaSS PGR, Faculty Rep Science PGT (removed as of 16 February 2026) , Faculty Rep Science PGR, BAME Rep, Democracy Convenor, Disabled Students' Rep, LGBT+ Rep, Part-time Students' Rep
Staff: Morna Simpkins, Alison McNaughton, Leo Siebert, Rudela Zaman
- b. Apologies: VP Inclusion, Faculty Rep Business UG, Faculty Rep Science UG, Halls Rep, Interfaith Rep
- c. Absentees: Mature Students' Rep, Women's Rep
- d. Declarations of Interest (if any)
- e. Minutes and Matters Arising

2. Reports

Exec

- a. President
 - i. Ongoing preparation for Scottish parliament election civic campaign: dates being confirmed; getting key partners (like Strath Telegraph, SNP Society, etc.) involved; 6 weeks of civic campaign increasing student voter awareness
 - ii. President visibility and accountability being built into role especially with upcoming elections
 - iii. Working on community events: Cultural Gala (with VP Inclusion) and LGBT+ History Month
 - iv. Democracy Review feedback
 - v. Current President role mandated into court, there is now a sitting student member on these committees
 - vi. James Blyth court: in design stage, promised to get student representation
- b. Vice-President Community
 - i. Upcoming events: Chinese spirit tasting, Ramadan; will have calendar up in Level 1 of Union
 - ii. New Societies Executive member appointed: Lateefah Isegen
 - iii. Changes to theme of upcoming STAR Awards: hoping to showcase more Latino and Peruvian influence at the event
- c. Vice-President Education
 - i. Representation Policy in the works
 - ii. Continuing work with reps (especially Faculty Reps), involving input from PGR and looking into UG and PGT

- iii. Creating resources to empower reps to enter conversations and establish stronger communication channels between faculty and Union
- iv. StrathReps day tomorrow (17 February): networking, free lunch, guest speaker sessions
- v. Personal Circumstances: mapped how university may react to a certain circumstance and in turn how we will provide information that university would need
- vi. Other projects: involving student voice in AI and education, working on student visa issues, reporting on student experience
- d. Vice-President Inclusion
 - i. Cultural gala coming up: Focus on language on Day 1, collaborative workshops and karaoke session on Day 2, main celebration (the gala) on Day 3
 - ii. Accessibility and mental health signposting, working with StrathApp to ensure accessibility features are functioning
 - iii. Ongoing work on visa issue and academic leave:
 - 1. Maintaining communications with UKVI and Home Office in collaboration with BAME Rep, however efforts limited by immigration laws
 - 2. Refocusing on raising awareness on Voluntary Suspension: drawing up resources for this and considering drop-in sessions for support
- e. Vice-President Sport
 - i. Successful Girls' Night In: attendance 24% up from last year, overall positive experience
 - ii. Details being confirmed on networking event with GUSA and GCU
 - iii. Wednesday Afternoon Policy survey results:
 - 1. Students reported clashes with mandatory classes and/or assessments which beats the point of the policy, working with VP Education to minimise these
 - 2. Looking to create positive storytelling campaign on this policy
 - iv. Sports Union Get Active Fund: encouraged students to look into this for financial assistance with sports activities

3. Removal of Elected Officers

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- a. Faculty Rep Science PGT invited to speak before voting.
 - i. Was unaware of meetings and unable to send apologies due to not having access to Faculty Rep email. Was also out of town and did not get in touch with Union team.
- b. Following query, voice Team reiterated all email communications with Faculty Reps happen only through their designated Rep email and that they are expected to attend Parliament.
- c. Majority of reps voted to ratify removal of rep.
- d. There will be a by-election for this post as part of Spring Elections.

4. Standing Policies Update

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- a. Democracy Convenor shared traffic light system for how Standing Policies work.
- b. Numerous policies expiring by end of June 2026, some can be retained which will be voted on in next Parliament, others that won't be retained can be brought up by anyone as new policy. Especially important for Spring Elections candidates in case they want to include these in their campaign.
- c. There will be a vote at the next Parliament on whether to retain policies due to lapse.

5. Democracy Review Update

Voice Team

- a. Changes voted in by Parliament and trustees, all available online.
- b. Nominations opened today for Spring Elections, updated roles and role descriptions now on website.
- c. Keen to hear everyone's views on current democracy and Parliament procedures through focus groups and upcoming lunch social, other medium will be made available in case someone is unable to make it in-person
 - i. Different models can be applied, discussions surrounding how to make it more meaningful and creative especially for students joining in non-Rep capacity
 - ii. Focus Group and Lunch to take place on Thursday 26th February 12:30-2pm

6. AI in Education – policy proposal discussion

VP Education

- a. Conversation with Reps about AI: student voice behind implementation - what students want regarding AI in university and how it will be implemented.
- b. Feedback received so far; University would have to crosscheck if projects etc. are meeting general ethical standards and more.
- c. Assessing potential impact on student-staff relations and experience
- d. Mapping AI use regulation within assessments to ensure critical thinking in writing
- e. Student attendee suggested teaching about ethics of AI: average person not very educated on ethics of AI. With AI usage expected to spike from 1% to 10% in next 4 years, alongside UK's increasing focus on tech and AI, there is good opportunity for University to pioneer in teaching about ethics in AI.
- f. More to be discussed in next Education Committee meeting and brought to next Parliament.

7. AOCB

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- a. **Challenging University's net-zero carbon emissions plan by 2030** – student attendee
 - i. Was insinuated that University seeks to attain its net zero goals by 2030 partly by not counting foreign student travel emissions, feels

that this is a “shaky” business model and thinks University should be challenged about this.

- ii. President encouraged furthering this conversation in Parliament, mentioned Climate Action Group and campaigning front opportunities at Union. Policy can be passed through Parliament.

b. Eradication of PGR Travel fund – Faculty Rep HaSS PGR

- i. University fund for PGRs to travel to conferences promised at time of enrolment now removed with no explanation, seems to be part of wider cost-saving measures. Spoken to VP Education and other PGRs about this, expecting more such changes and wants to look into how Parliament should respond to them.
- ii. President: has been meeting with head of UCU. Many staff members are speaking up about this as University aims to save £20 million this financial year. Ongoing talks of how to better support students and staff and show solidarity as Union.
- iii. Student Attendee: University also cutting essential research funding to save money.

c. Neurodiversity Celebration Week starting 16th March

d. Nominations now open for Spring Elections

8. Adjournment

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- a. Next and final Parliament on 31st March