

**Minutes**  
**Student Parliament 3**  
Monday 22 January 2024, 5:00pm  
Online via Zoom

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**1. Call to Order**

The Policy Officer welcomed everyone and thanked guests, and then explained how participants could add themselves to speaker lists. Explained the rules that apply as usual regarding method of speaking/addressing one another. Handed over to the speaker.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Moved **Democracy Convenor**, seconded by **Disability Rep** that the 22 January 2024 Student Parliament agenda be approved as presented.*

**Motion carried.**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*Moved **Business Undergraduate Rep**, seconded **VP Education** that the 27 November 2023 Student Parliament minutes be approved as presented.*

**Motion carried.**

**4. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

**a. Removal of Non-Executive Officer**

*Moved **VP Education**, seconded **VP Sport** that Parliament ratify the removal of Hardik Jaipuria as Interfaith Rep subject to Item 13.e.6.a of the University of Strathclyde Students' Association Schedules.*

VP Education explained that this member of Parliament has not turned up or sent apologies for previous Parliaments, therefore, according to the schedules, they can be removed from post and that, while they had the option to speak at this Parliament regarding this, they did not choose to do so.

VP Welfare asked if the post would be filled again. The Policy Officer explained that there was a grey area where there is no procedure to replace a non-exec officer during their term. They also informed Parliament that, since the election for the position was coming up in the coming months, there would only be a short duration without this position.

Democracy Convenor asked if there were any options.

VP Sport asked if it was possible for the person elected in March to take up the role immediately.

The Policy Officer explained that since terms are fixed, they would have to look into the specifics, but it is unclear as the Union does not have a position on this. Explained that if Parliament desired to have a role filled, they could appoint it. Their recommendation was to leave the position vacant until it is filled again during the spring elections.

Speaker suggested if the position is needed to be filled, Parliament could appoint someone into this position.

The Policy Officer offered to look through and see what protocol there is in the Schedules regarding the filling of a now-vacant position.

Science PGR Rep brought up item 13.e.i.6.b.iv in the Schedules which states that a majority is needed to remove a non-executive officer. The Policy Officer explained that Parliament was voting to remove the officer pursuant to item 13.e.i.6.a, which relates specifically to removal due to non-attendance at Parliament meetings.

VP Welfare questioned whether the Interfaith Rep had been notified of the motion to remove them from office, the Policy Officer explained they had been.

***Motion carried.***

**5. Reports**

**a. President**

The president gave their update - welcomed parliament.

From their report they highlighted the success of fight for the night and the upcoming girl's night on Thursday 8th February. They also brought up the upcoming elections and encouraged parliament to get involved and re-run if they so wished and come to them for any help.

**b. Vice-President Community**

Pointed to their report for updates, explained that if there were any questions, they were happy to answer them in parliament or later.

**i. *Ad hoc* committee on plant-based catering**

They updated parliament that the committee met earlier on that day and no consensus was reached, but they will meet weekly from that week until the 19th of February to discuss the question on policy brought up in parliament one. They finished by asserting they will update further in the next parliament.

**c. Vice-President Education**

Pointed to the information in their report saying if anyone had questions or if any projects in their report sounded interesting to send them an email or message.

**d. Vice-President Sport**

Told parliament to read their report and of they had any questions just to get in touch. They also highlighted girl's night at Strathclyde sport, explained what that event would look like and encouraged parliament to spread information among students and come along.

**e. Vice-President Welfare**

They highlighted the creative hub, especially an event that Friday, that there would be an exhibition open and encouraged parliament to come along and let other students know and let them know if they had any questions.

**6. BAME Career Initiative**

BAME rep thanked parliament for the opportunity and explained their initiative that offered discussions with students recognising unique challenges and opportunities among the BAME community. Their details included dedicated space on websites which create gateways to internships, industry specific workshops as well as collaborative partnerships with organisations. They also explained an important aspect which was access to stories about BAME success. They then said they would appreciate thoughts and feelings after meeting.

VP welfare encouraged participants to take part and encourage other students from BAME backgrounds to get involved and congratulated BAME rep on their work.

VP education asked if there were any particular actions from members of parliament that could help support this. BAME rep asked for any ideas or suggestions for improvement.

Speaker added that it was a good initiative, and it would be good to consider sustainability. Part-time students rep also suggested increasing the number of talks and seminars for successful people with BAME background. SBS UG Rep encouraged them to reach out if they needed help on faculty level. VP community suggested chatting with VP inclusion regarding their diverse leadership programme

The Policy Officer returned to meeting to explain that if parliament was interested in filling the position of interfaith rep on an interim basis, it would be the job of the VP Inclusion to either appoint someone or take up the job themselves. They explained that there has not been an active member in this role since August and is therefore unclear of what the role would look like.

The President added that if there has not been an interfaith role up until the time of parliament, it would not be effective to elect a new one within the shortened time period. Suggested VP inclusion could identify any gaps left by the absence and parliament could pick this up on a lesser level than an entirely new role.

VP welfare brought up their election process and large number of votes in favour of their election and questioned the reason for their lack of presence at parliament. Asked if the rep could explain their absence.

President explained that the group came to the conclusion that the student graduated and therefore has not completed their role, and the reason for removing their role is due to the honorarium awarded for their work. But this has not been earned and therefore they moved to remove them.

## **7. Other Business**

Disability rep wanted to highlight that since the end of last semester their quiet hour initiative is up and running successfully since last semester.

VP welfare brought up the fact that they will be running survey and focus groups on housing and mental health and how the union and university are catering for them. They encouraged parliament to get involved with that.

PGR rep replied that there are a lot of people advertising housing on PGR WhatsApp group and wondered what factors were leading to this. VP welfare acknowledged this and said they'd be in touch.

Halls Rep asked If there is a problem or I want some guidance in accommodation, who should I contact?

VP welfare recommended the advice hub as the best contact via email or appointment.

VP welfare asked if parliament was giving guidance on how to run for election. VP education explained that the policy from the last one didn't have guidance for elections but allowed staff to change timings. They said they were sure they could pass on information or recommendations from parliament, adding that perhaps it was too close to elections to pass on anything major but asked if there was anything specific to help inform candidates.

VP welfare suggested that the union should recommend how best to use their assigned budget to make the best campaign.

President added that there are campaign workshops at the start of elections.

Policy Officer explained he would bring these suggestions to his team.

VP education wanted to check if they were correct that there were more campaign workshops since last year, Policy Officer said he would check with the head of memberships.

VP welfare asked how parliament was feeling about the upcoming elections.

President said they were excited, they would be running gain, suggested a more community-based process, and a friendly atmosphere during a potentially stressful week. VP welfare agreed.

Part time students rep added: 'I have been working on bringing Hear to listen online for part time students and the union staff has done a really great work in a short time. Hear to listen will start to be online monthly for a trial for few months.'

President congratulated them.

President encouraged parliament to reach out if they needed any support with any of their campaigns or initiatives.

#### **8. Adjournment**

*Moved **Disabled Students' Rep**, seconded **VP Community** that the 22 January 2024 Student Parliament meeting be adjourned.*

***Motion carried.***