Student Parliament 1

Date: 15th October 2026	Time: 17:00-18:30	Location: Level 8, Strath Union

Attendees			
Present			
Callum Denton	Activities President	Mattheos Perakis	Business UG Faculty Rep
Jo Fitzpatrick	Inclusion President (chair)	Abhishek Guda	Business PGT Faculty Rep
Lucia Gil Dorta	Education President	Mateusz Spitziar	Engineering UG Faculty Rep
Tilly Galvin	Sports President	Aakanksha Dubey	Engineering PGT Faculty Rep
Brodie Thomson	HaSS UG Faculty Rep	Arslan Anwar	Engineering PGR Faculty Rep
Saadia Bashir	HaSS PGT Faculty Rep	Joseph Kean	LGBTQ+ Equality Officer
Phyllis Trelli	HaSS PGR Faculty Rep	Jay McKee	Disability Equality Officer
Alexandru Florea	Science UG Faculty Rep	Cameron Ward	Science PGR Faculty Rep
Apologies			
Omowonuola Esther Diya	Women's Equality Officer	Lateefah Isegen	Student Democracy Facilitator
Fraser Brown	Union President	Ali Imran	Race Equality Officer
Absent			
Qawiyah Tejumola	Business PGR Faculty Rep	Mohammed Musthaleeb	Science PGT Faculty Rep
Staff Support			
Alison McNaughton	Voice Manager	Leo Siebert	Voice Coordinator
Morna Simpkins	CEO		

Welcome & Introductions

Welcome to Student Parliament

Due to the Student Democracy Facilitator being unable to attend, the Inclusion President chaired this session of Parliament. The chair welcomed Parliament and introduced the agenda.

Members present and Apologies

The meeting is quorate with 16 voting members present and four apologies noted.

Declarations of interest

The present Student Presidents declared that they are also members of the Board of Trustees, whose amendment to the Schedules was being ratified during this meeting of Parliament.

General Updates and Follow-Ups

Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Student Parliament voted in favour to approve the previous meeting's minutes with a small amendment on the Inclusion President's update.

Outstanding minutes and actions from the previous meeting

No update was available on resubmittal of the HEAR We Go policy. Inclusion President agreed to provide an update on this at the next meeting.

Officer Updates and Questions

Update from Activities President

Four Socs Exec meetings have taken place so far this semester, with two new Socs Exec Members for this academic year.
At the time of the update, Socs Exec has a remaining budget of around £42,000 and has given out £2,295 in Welcome Grants. Socs Exec also approved four new societies (Endo SOS, Fibre Arts, Burmese, Wine and Cheese, and Albanian) and reaffiliated five others (Sikh, SEMS, Saudi, Economics, and Labour), bringing Strath Union to a total of 138 active societies. All 6 socs exec members have been very active in their roles thus far and discussions have been positive and enjoyable.

Update from Education President

The last Education Committee included community-building and decided on setting up drop-ins for the Faculty Reps with the Education President. They also discussed the upcoming Strath Reps Day and clarified available funding. The committee also discussed Turnitin's potential usage of students' academic work to train their AI systems, which the University clarified does not apply to Strathclyde's Turnitin package.
Faculty Reps also raised ongoing timetabling issues, and the Education President took this forward at University committees. Faculty Reps continue to work on being visible and approachable on campus, surveying PGR students on the PGCert. At the committee, the Education President also presented the Academic Representation policy and sought input on the forthcoming Student Partnership Agreement.

Update from Inclusion President

The Equality and Inclusion Committee have been working on upcoming campaigns and history months, with Black History Month well under way and upcoming events including a Strath Active Session, an art exhibition and a costume party. Parliament was encouraged to share these events and encourage students to submit art to be displayed.
Planning for Disability History Month has started and the committee is keen to lift this up more than it has been in previous years. Actions include coffee sessions and drop-ins, aiming to restart the Disabled Students Action Group, and surveying disabled students on campus support.
International Pronouns Day on Wednesday will be marked with a video and stall. The Inclusion President will also speak to the University about normalising pronoun sharing in meetings.
Work is also ongoing around the Trans Rights Action Group including a meeting on the AskAlex service.
Planning for 16 Days of Action is going well, including both the Fight for the Night March and the wider campaign. Reps and other students are still welcome to get involved.
Another International Students Induction is taking place on Friday 16th and support for international students during their academic journey is being reviewed.

The Activities President requested feedback to be shared on the Black History Month events and raised a potential miscommunication around the karaoke theming. The Voice Team agreed to look into this.

Update from Sports President

Sports Exec elected a new Events Officer and is hosting the Captains' Dinner, with around 100 students coming along.
The first Strath Star of the Month was honoured for outstanding work as coaching volunteer – applications/recommendations are open for October.

Two applications for funding were approved for new futsal and handball goals and for new lacrosse face gear due to new regulations.
The £5,000 of Sports Union Get Active Funding pot has been spent and will be expanded by £2,500.

Update from Union President

Over the summer, the protests against immigration going on in Glasgow were raised with the University and prompted the University to give a statement, as did the Union.
The Union President is continuing to focus on block grant research and meeting with other SUs for this purpose.
A potential collaboration with No Pride in Genocide did not go ahead due to the unwillingness of No Pride in Genocide.
The importance of the weekly Executive Meetings was reestablished.
The deliverables for the Strategic Alliance Framework are being drafted and feedback is being implemented.

Main Items

Ratification of Meetings and Standing Orders Schedule after the Trustee Board Amendment

The chair summarised the amendment and invited questions. The Strath Union CEO elaborated on the rationale for amendment, explaining that the Board of Trustees felt that it was important to explicitly mention the Finance, Audit, and Risk Subcommittee. Members then voted unanimously in favour of the amendment.

Ratification of new additions to Board of Trustees

Ratification of Trustees:
Jo introduced list of new Trustees: Alan Ritchie, Manjit Mooker, Claire Johnson, Luke Foster, Julia Braun Raven, Abigal Fleming, Bayan Mazhar, and Leighann Lindsay.

Members then voted in favour of ratifying the addition of the above Trustees.

Any Other Business and Conclusion

Upcoming events of interest

Nominations for the International Students' Officer elections are closing at 3pm on Friday 16th October.
The UG Engineering Faculty Rep is in the process of planning student forums for UG Engineering students.
Scottish Women and Girls in Sport Week is from 2nd-8th – please contact the Sports President if interested.
Four of the five Student Presidents now have drop-in sessions – reps and officers should please direct students there.
Strath Reps Day is taking place on 4th November, with all reps invited to attend.
On 5th November, the Education President is hosting a focus group on supporting students at Stage 1 of the Disciplinary Process.
On 9th November, there is an open meeting with Sustainability staff and student groups.

Any Other Competent Business

The chair thanked the Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research Faculty Reps for their hard work. The Education President raised that the position of Faculty Rep is currently not open to January start Postgraduate taught students and invited discussion about this. The Voice Team clarified that PGT January starts officially cease to be a student in January, and are still eligible for sabbatical roles. The PGR Faculty Rep for HaSS raised that she sees issue with exclusion but also sees operational issues with more frequent by-elections and staffing capacity, so does not see a clear alternative. The PGT Faculty Rep for Business raised that the number of PGTs starting in January is far lower than those who start in September. The Education President also informed members of other issues of equity for January starts in academic outcomes. The Voice Manager will follow up with alternative ways of engagement for January start PGTs. The Education President will lead work on the academic side of January start engagement, such as at programme level, and update on this at the next Parliament. The UG Faculty Rep for Engineering raised a suggestion for other UG reps to work on module evaluations to compare these between faculties. The UG Rep for HaSS is already undertaking research on feedback mechanisms within HaSS, which could tie in. The PGT Faculty Rep for Engineering raised her experience of being a faculty rep and difficulties particularly for PGTs with tight and unpredictable schedules, lack of time, and lack of institutional support. She found this issue particularly stark within Engineering.
The chair closed the meeting. Date of next Student Parliament: Monday 23rd November 2026