



Student Parliament 3
29/11/2022
Offline/Online meeting

Students in attendance:

Jay Sutherland, Liam Mosson, Amy (full name not recorded), Daniel Lambe, Matthew Ferrie, Charlie Wilson, David Lowit, Cameron Kelly, Charlie Bristow, Charlie Mackenzie-Nash, Akwasi Boateng, Christopher Boylestru, Nichola Struthers, Mieitous Romano, Kathryn Murdie, Milly Grassom, Patrick Reid, Ross Gibson, Kirsty Smith

Officers in attendance:

Offline:

Arran Lamont (VP Education), Lewis McDermott (VP Welfare), Ronan Welch (VP Sport), Adam Morrow (President), Yu-Chu (Kathy) Doong (VP Inclusion), Justyna Kardasz (VP Community), Dimeji Oladepo (Faculty Rep Science PGT), Danielle Araujo (Faculty Rep Business PGT), Muhammad Qaedi Bin Nadir (Faculty Rep Business UG), Eva Curran (Women's Rep), Molly Biggar (Faculty Rep HaSS UG), Mohammed Gusbi (Faculty Rep Science PGR), Chisom Sheryl Okpala (Faculty Rep HaSS PGT), Kyle McGettigan (Democracy Convenor and Chair)

Online:

Muntaha Naseer (Faculty Rep Science UG), Vivek Malik (Mature Students' Rep), Grace Alom (Part-time Students' Rep).

Apologies:

Rebekah Chatellier (Faculty Rep HaSS PGR), Ari Hamilton (Disabled Students' Rep), Maia Peat (LGBT+ Rep)

Staff in attendance:

Amy Baddeley (Representation Coordinator), Adam Crawley (Voice Manager), Natalie Bello (Student Engagement Support Staff), Kieran Hein (Sustainability Coordinator), Daniel Waterson (Digital & Marketing Manager), Ashanti Magoma (Student Engagement Support Staff)

1. Welcome and Code of Conduct

Everyone is welcomed by Kyle, Democracy Conveyor (DC). DC explained the items in the agenda and highlighted Code of Conduct. (DC) noted that the agenda would be re-arranged slightly, as a proposer of an item needed to leave early.

2. Approval and note of previous minutes

a. Student Parliament Minutes

Justyna Kardasz name is spelled wrong. No roles for some of the faculty reps on the minutes. Approval of content of minutes from the previous meeting at Student Parliament.

b. Exec Committee Minutes

These were noted and the Exec provided an update.

c. Student Exec Update

Strath Union President Adam Morrow gave update on everything going on at the Union. Strong campaigning efforts led by Kathy and other Strath Reps with great success during the month of October. Plans are being set out for January including the sexual health campaign – Strath Sexual Health Awareness & Guidance Week.

Kathy has been planning 16 Days of Action (campaign against Gender-Based Violence) and Fight for the Night on the 8th December 2022. Lewis and Adam have been following up with the University and the University Secretary on the housing situation. Breakfast club has been started which has been well attended, highlighting situation of some of the student body. Return to campus survey has gone out to gain feedback from students.

d. Education Committee Update

Arran provided an update - welcomed 4 new PGT reps who will be serving for the next 12 months. Since the last Parliament there have been ongoing discussions with students about returning to campus, how they are settling in, progressing lecture recordings and addressing exam anxiety as many students will be sitting exams for the first time at Strathclyde soon. The Education Committee & the Learning and Development services have been working closely to ease transition into in-person exams make this partnership to work on this. They have also been working on raising awareness of the services already available on campus (Learning & Development).

3. Change It Submission Update

Eva Curran (Women's Rep) has been working on the Consent module which is now on Change It and has over 50 votes so will be discussed at the next Student Parliament. Girls Night will take place next week. University is keen to get the Consent module in place, but there has been a lack of movement on the matter, Change It submission to Student Parliament should push this forward. Student Exec will fully support this.

4. Policy Proposal

Kyle reminded on key aspects of Code of Conduct before debate on policy proposal. The structure for the discussion is that speeches will last a maximum 2 minutes. There will be a proposer – who is Jay Sutherland, followed by questions of clarification on the policy. There will then be a speech against the policy which will lead into the debate section of the discussion. The debate will have one speech in favour and one speech against. At the closing point of the debate there will be a closing speech who the proposer can give or can allocate

to someone else. Voting procedure – only elected officers can vote. Society committee members cannot vote. Voting will be done anonymously and online via Sli.do. After a period of time, vote will be announced.

a. Active and unconditional support for the strike

Jay Sutherland (Student): Since I've been in 1st year, the students union has always backed the strikes. I was involved in the John Anderson occupation, we had our Student President come down, sit with us, deliver food and supplies. The Union was always a constant sign of support, for not just staff, but students who wish to support staff. The Union has many, many policies of intersectionality. All the lanyards that you're wearing have the LGBT+ flag, you have Decolonial discussions, Cost of Living chats, marches against sexism and sexual violence. But suddenly supporting striking workers unconditionally is seen as too politicised, too radical. So, I ask you why are all these other issues which you seem to want to address seen as fair game but suddenly when it comes to striking workers that's not an issue that you want to touch.

You will say that we have to stop the disruption to our education, that we've been too much indoors, that COVID has impacted us too much. This is a very narrow view of education. Education doesn't stop when lectures stop. It's a constant process. It's a constant process that means students at all levels of the university, whether they go and attend a picket line, or a sit in or an occupation or a teach-in. That's learning as well. It doesn't just stop at lectures. Lectures aren't the only form of education. To be honest, the statement put out by the Students Union recently, it represents a stagnation of student life. Of social life, of political life, essentially against student democracy and action. We saw recently a referendum was proposed in London and many universities there, and they gave the opportunity for students to go and publicly vote. Over 65% of students voted in favour, so that is an option we could have taken, and I ask all of you in this room and all of those in the Committee, you are all on salaries of over £20,000 a year.

DC notes that Jay is running over time and asked to conclude.

Jay Sutherland: Tomorrow, some of the lowest paid striking workers from Unite are going on strike as well. Cleaners are on minimum wage. Would you expect them to work more and get paid less? Cause I'm sure none of you would.

DC interjects and notes that some of the comments are not in line with the code of conduct as it targeted specific members of Parliament.

a. Questions for clarification on the policy.

Liam Mosson (Student): Looking at the section 'Student Parliament instructs'. Starting with point 1 it says, "Strath Union should reaffirm that it backs the strikes unconditionally." Whistly at the current time, this is fairly in context with the UCU strikes and the Unite strikes, lapsing policy at Strathclyde runs for a significantly long period of time so moving forward, given that it doesn't explicitly mention strikes this policy actively supports in the

'instructs' section, how do we know in two years' time that wouldn't be misinterpreted for strikes which completely go against Strath Union's values.

Response from proposer **Jay Sutherland**: How would a strike go against Strath Union's values? If the policy beforehand was always no matter which union was going on strike, to support them, how would that go against the values of the Student Union.

Student (name not recorded): There is a significant number of students who are internationals students or have visa applications, and they might have an exam or class to go as part of their visa requirements and attending strikes may have an impact on this. Is there a policy that could make room for this?

Response from proposer **Jay Sutherland**: Since the first year the Union policy has been very clear, but it's only this year that the Students' Union has decided to focus on this new issue. And it has never been an issue beforehand under many other presidents, in fact every single president since I've been at Strathclyde, until the current one, has never focussed on this issue of "can international students go or not?", when there are international students sitting here who were on the picket lines. This doesn't appear to be a significant issue.

Student (name not recorded): On point 3 and 4. For point 3 I would ask if the proposers understands the implications that would have on contracts, that may ask to enact policies on social media which breaches their contact agreements. For point 4, the Union already hosts events and students are able to conduct events within the Union complex. What difference would it have having the Union actively form these events?

Response from proposer **Jay Sutherland**: To reply to the first point, it is a massive thing that the Strathclyde Union is not on the picket lines this year. It is quite demoralising, for some of the lowest paid staff. On the second point, that it breaches contract – this would mean that every other student president before this one has breached contract law. I don't think that's the case. That was normal procedure for my whole year at University, so it wouldn't be any new policy. In fact, it would just be confirming the policy that was already in place.

DC moves to a speech against the policy

Adam Morrow: I spent time and dedication rebuilding relationship with UCU, which was previously destroyed by last year's Executive and inherited by the current team.

DC notes that some of the language used is against the code of conduct, as it directly targets a person or group, and is not directly linked to the policy.

Adam Morrow: Apologies. I met with Ross from UCU yesterday, after the claims online that the relationship is in the mud – I don't think that's true. They stressed out the gratitude for rebuilding the relationship this year, and for supporting them with free hot drinks and for giving them somewhere warm to organise. Strath occupied do not speak on behalf of UCU and the Union. We fully support the UCU, Unite and Unison, and their fights for better pay, pension and work conditions. We are not divided in our support for the strikes. We fully stand in solidarity with our friends and colleagues. I apologise if you infer from that

statement that we were encouraging students to cross the picket lines – that is not true. I will conclude saying that we are the elected Reps, we have a mandate from the student body to act on their behalf.

Speeches for policy:

Daniel (Student): I would like to put the current policy in the context that we are just kind of leaving out: a massive economic crisis with a pandemic, not just in this university, but for workers across Britain. If we have a nuanced approach, it should not give lackluster support to the strikes. There needs to be solidarity for the strikes - for the work of people who have been there for us, who maintain the university, of the professors and all the staff who make sure we get an education. The “I’m alright Jack” attitude is not appropriate; we need to be supportive of the strikes and the pickets. Times are hard for the strikers, and we need to be there for them through thick and thin, through the hardships as well. They want to be able to get mortgages, better conditions and pensions. These are people whose future is on the line.

Speeches against policy:

Arran Lamont: I do agree with a lot of that. We support UCU’s cause and understand why the strikers are doing this. We do stand with them. This stance wasn’t just my decision taken lightly, 3200 students voted back in May and elected us. We had a real discussion about how there is no “typical student” anymore. Notes that there is a mixed opinions on strikes in the student body and the officers want to support all students.

Speech for policy:

Student (Name not recorded): You can write or email professor if you aren’t able to attend classes. And even if you get alert that visa is in danger can have conversation. Small issues can be excused. Only way that you can be kicked out is if they cannot get a hold of you. And haven’t been to classes for 4 weeks. From speaking to people on the picket, and people have raised points about support from the student union.

Speech against policy:

Liam Mosson: Two issues are being conflated, whether strikes are being supported , and to what extent union should be involved. Believe vast majority of students do support the strikes and should be able to do so in which way they see fit. Students have faced disruption and won’t join picket line for this reason, and I believes this is why union have taken the stance that they have. Previous reference was mobbed by Strathclyde UCU on twitter. They have spoken out against union policy should as returning to campus safely. Argument is that multiple cases of odds between UCU and Union. Has to be a two-way position.

Speech:

Benn Rapson: Last year’s president. Admit that relationship with UCU wasn’t good because of communication. Over disagreement of return to campus. Last year’s student exec did have statement in support of the strike. Done after consultation with students. Always



supported strike action. Fundamental human right. Union has existing policy on this. Union supports strike action. Union exec doesn't set policy. Parliament and students do. Not fair to change stance without consulting students first.

Speech

Yu-Chu Doong: Recognise nature of the role as VP Inclusion and is looking at the strikes from this point of view. We support the cause of the Unions, democracy and freedom of choice. For some international students, striking can be seen as political stance which may face serious consequences upon returning to home countries. Instead of shaming people who can't participate we need to ask why they can't participate in the strikes. Here to make everyones life easier, and life better and I encourage people to treat each other with kindness. We need to create a constructive environment so that people can share and feel a part of the cause. If we are shutting down those voices, they are less likely to be part of the movements.

Speech

PhD Student (Name not recorded): Work as brand ambassador of UCU and is a PhD student working for less than minimum wage. This is exploitation of workers. Not condemn strath union for what they feel the voice is. Consider supporting student union as much as they can. Talk and join picket line. Lower paid workers – taking strike action for first time in a long time. Send emails to support workers. Student support means more. Things are better. So many shared objectives. Their working objectives and their learning conditions. Help support this.

Parliament applauds this statement. DC moves to close the discussion and go to a vote. Invites the proposer to summate.

Closing Speech

Jay Sutherland: Solidarity is needed, Free tea and coffee is not good enough. Worke'rs demand more from the student parliament. The fact that it will be voted down shows that the students' union isn't in solidarity with the unions. Striking doesn't make you a political activist – this is defamation to those on the picket line. For years students have been in attendance, and no visa issues. There's extreme wealth within the University, and students' union is unable to condemn them. This policy is considered extreme – then where are we going as a student union. Glasgow Uni blocked a building is bare minimum. Us giving tea and coffee not good enough.

DC moves to a vote.

In favour:	40%
Abstain:	7%
Against	53%

This policy does not pass.

DC called for a short break

5. Lapsing Policy

Lewis McDermott provides an update – Policy lapsing at attend of the year. Look over policy and join working group to decide which to lapse, which to keep etc. Met a couple of weeks ago to discuss this. Policies to be kept and lapsed have been made decisions on. At next student parliament, there will be a vote on the lapsing policies. Policies to re-write to mostly just require updating around dates and buildings and other outdated parts. Rewritten policies will be brought in before the end of the year.

AOB

Lewis McDermott: Cost of Living, Exec is aware of that. Students are being adversely affected. Asking for feedback on what is being done on cost of living and what can be done.

Charlie: What is the union currently doing in figuring out biggest impact they can have and partnerships to have a wider impact?

Lewis McDermott: Material impacts like breakfast club, lobbying for reinvestment in hardship and discretionary fund. Looking to work and partner with wider national fight. NUS has big campaign and in support of that. Wider fights with power to the people and enough is enough. Not looked to do events or workshops because of view that there is lack of attendance from students. Students can reach out to say that want workshops. No work to see where they can be best measured.

Adam Morrow: Notes that NUS UK is launching a campaign.

Ronan Welsh: Free breakfast in the library. 5th to 16th including weekends. Worked in junction with university and union.

Student (Name not recorded): Union is doing a lot as it is. Quiet space where students can uni work. Keeping the union during the strikes is important. Studying doesn't stop because techers stop teaching. International and masters students appreciate free breakfast,

Charlie: There's also free lunch in the chaplaincy. Free dinner every Wednesday at the chaplaincy.

Liam: Whilst there is disruption going on, what can exec do to ensure strikes are being conducted in a positive manner, and students don't feel inclined to go on campus.

Adam Morrow: Agreement with all unions that no pickets are on the union. To ensure that all students feel safe and comfortable on campus.

Arran: Will be calling out negative campaigns when they happen.



Charlie: Can we advertise that Union is not being picketed.

Exec note this

DC thanks people for attending and hopes that they have a good break over Christmas.