

Student Parliament 5 Minutes

27/01/2022

Online Meeting

Officers in attendance:

Kyle McGettigan (Democracy Convener), Liam Mosson (Faculty Rep – HaSS PGT), Lewis McDermott (VP Welfare), Ailidh Hamilton, Aspen (LGBT+ Rep), Louise Christine Nicolson (Faculty Rep - HaSS PGT), Benn Rapson (President), Jushuai Song (Faculty Rep - HaSS PGR), Emily (Marketing and Comms), Jiani Chen (International Students' Rep), Kirsty Bannatyne (Sport VP), Ru Wallace (VP Community), Sean Jamieson (Part-time Students Rep), Abdul Eneser (Halls Rep), Callum Barclay (Faculty Rep - Science UG), Nathan Epemolu (BAME Rep), Eva Curran (Women's Rep), Abdullah Nadeem (Interfaith Rep), Aaron Lamont (Faculty Rep - Business UG), Savinna Kritharidou (VP Education), Lily Ziqing Yin (Faculty Rep - Engineering PGR), Atif Sattar (Faculty Rep - Business PGT),

Staff in attendance:

Adam Crawley (Policy & Campaigns Coordinator), Leo Howes (Head of Student Engagement), Aidan Connor (Student Engagement Support), Emily McIlhatton (Communications & Marketing)

Students in attendance:

Muhammad Baig, Eamonn McClay (Chair of housing action group)

1) Welcome and Code of Conduct

Kyle McGettigan welcomes everyone and reminds everyone of what today's meeting will discuss and if you want to speak on a matter, how to do so.

Emily invited officers to get involved in promotional opportunities for the upcoming elections.

2) Approval and noting of previous minutes

a. Student Parliament Minutes

These minutes were approved

b. Executive Committee Minutes

These minutes were approved

Kyle invites the executive officers to provide updates to Parliament:

Ru Wallace (VP Community) - talks about how he has been working on the membership proposal/proposal amendments to policy and lifetime memberships. He has been communicating regularly and trying to compromise and address issues of

concerns with stakeholders. He has also been working on STAR Awards – talking about the options of March or May for an event and the pros of cons for each.

Lewis McDermott (VP Welfare) - Talks about launching a new campaign on tackling housing and raising awareness for housing issues and what we can do to try and implement change within the union and university. They will be looking at policy approval by the union. Furthermore there is also work on sexual health and discussions with university. Also having conversations with people regarding mental health and discussions with a disability will be in department running a review of the impact ones. Created a survey and asked if you can fill out information to the University to be more informed. Also be responding to emails.

Kirsty Bannatyne (VP Sport) - lots of unexpected issues had arisen, so she was unable to focus too much on her manifesto as much as she would have liked to. She is also trying to push the podcast a lot more. She talked about the new podcast she's been involved in. She also talks of the sports ball, which will happen this February. Further day-to-day admin.

Savvina Kritharidou (VP Education) - in December she organised and collaborated with a group secret event and welcome to international students in an induction. Furthermore she has also had conversations regarding returns to campus with Ben and the University. Now they have started to focus on manifesto points, such as recorded materials online and started discussions with the University. Further different stuff in regards to employment questions and different home opportunities on campus. Further day-to-day stuff question issues and enquiries.

Benn Rapson (President) - has been working on a new platform with the student engagement team on 'change it'. This will allow members of the union to have more say over policy by doing online votes, at the next Parliament there will be a demo to showcase this. Furthermore there is a Facebook post about showing accommodation providers sponsoring elections this year. Benn, Manish and the CEO of the union will be looking into the financial relationship with academic advisors as they are currently the primary advertisers with the union, however there are questions about their ethical responsibility and if they treat students well.

Kyle welcomes Eamonn from the Housing Action Group to speak.

Eamonn McClay - talks about the issues with getting a flat in Glasgow – talks about how he has set up an Instagram page, which had 22 followers but is looking for support in order to grow supporting the issue.

Ru Wallace updates on behalf of the Climate Emergency Action Group: He mentions curriculum changes and mandating changes, for the changes being added that they are campaigning for, as well as how the University and Senate and the commitment to education first attainable development, which is something that action group have been campaigning for. Furthermore issues such as mandating carbon literacy he is hopeful will be introduced to all students. They also recently had a social, which got their support on the subject. He's also been able to receive student control over the community garden and encourages people to get involved.

3. Policy Proposals

a. Inclusive Language

Ailidh Hamilton (LGBT+ Rep) introduces the policy:

They explain that people from different races, genders, identifications, and backgrounds should feel included. Also talks about how inclusive language would be used internally and externally – including all union staff and should endeavour to ask students of their pronouns and should try to include they/them. Also talk about family will try to use other phrases such as 'loved ones'. This policy will also be included on policy material with the curriculum.

Ru Wallace supports the policy and states it's a long overdue and believes it will work well.

Lewis McDermott also thinks it's long overdue and thanks everyone who worked on the policy and states how it is a public statement to become more inclusive and hope that it will pass today and everyone supports and is behind it.

Ailidh says it allows us to take actions to support students and hopes it passes to create a positive change.

VOTING BREAKDOWN:

Inclusive Language – Policy Passes

- **Approve 94%**
- **Abstain 6%**

5-minute access break

4. NUS Conference – Idea Submissions

a. Democratic Decay in the United Kingdom

Ben Rapson talks about how the United Kingdom has agreed the new policy by the delegated to the NUS UK conference. It was debated alongside other policies and improved among 68 delegates and submitted to parliament. Ben talks about how these policies fit into a scary and quite authoritarian approach by the UK government with the legislation. Ben Rapson thinks the union should take a stand against these policies as the union will be one of the groups affected by this.

Mohammed Baig asked which stage the legislation are at. Ben responds that these have been passed through the Lords.

Liam Mosson agreed with the policy to be passed and talked about the direct impact on student movement in the wider context. He particularly highlighted voter's IDs.

Louise Christine Nicholson agreed with everything Liam said and talked about the protection of free speech and the fundamental rights of students.

Savvina Kritharidou - Felt that some other issues could arise with his policies including exchange programs of the Brexit and raises this issue and encourages other officers to join.

Ben acknowledges Savvina's ideas and Brexit exchange ideas. It is also reiterated that these policies were passed last year by the NUS and raises the issue this will have on students.

Abdul Eneser agrees with what everything has previously been brought up by speakers and adds that curriculum accessibility and consistency in terms of the digitalisation of resources for visually impaired students. He also talks about the effect of this policy would have on student housing.

Nathan brings up the independent NUS policy and asks if there are any examples of policies they could not be passed because of this. With regards to the housing crisis, he iterates that this would mean a lot more student engagement. He also asks the question if all issues would be solved with this policy passing or is there something else that could be done.

Sean Jamieson - States his support of the policy and points out the attack of devolution and could have implications on students. He also states as the union she keep these issues and concerns, especially with a devolved parliament.

VOTING BREAKDOWN

Democratic Decay in the United Kingdom – NUS National Conference Idea Proposal - Passes

- **Approve 69%**
- **Against 9%**
- **Abstain 13%**

b. Independent National Union of Students for Scotland

Ben Rapson talks about how the NUS over recent years has reduced the number of motions that members consent. An independent in NUS would help to re-create the political sphere and create history as was leading in NUS into a new era of motion control.

Liam Mosson brings up the idea of constitutional questions and how each organization is differentiated. He brings up how the education system in England and Scotland are already devolved and therefore each had their own issues, exploring the need for more student focused NUS.

Abdul Eneser asks if the Scottish and NUS wanted to pass a policy, would they need permission by NUS UK. In response Ben responds to this, explaining that in Scotland you can policy, but not financial policy. Ben talks about how Scotland currently do not having structural autonomy, which you need in order to do things differently for Scottish students.

Muhammad Baig asks if policies could be shaped to the union's liking. Ben responds yes and it would help to create representation of different levels and create a better student representation.

VOTING BREAKDOWN:

Independent National Union of Students for Scotland – NUS Scotland Conference Idea Proposal - Passes

- **Approve 81%**
- **Against 6%**
- **Abstain 13%**

Kyle agrees to move the discussion on Learning & Teaching to a separate meeting to allow the meeting to finish on time. Kyle thanks attendees for attending.