# MINUTES

# General Meeting

# 31/01/2022

There will be a meeting of the Students’ Union General Meeting on **Monday 31st January 2022** from **5:00pm via Microsoft Teams.**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

* 1. Members Present

Nela Cadinanos Gonzalez NG Union President

Sophie Charlton SC Sports President

Calum Brown CB VP Education

Alyson MacKay AM VP Communities

Ordinary Members OM

* 1. In Attendance
  2. Observers

Rosamund Vickers RV Democracy and Representation Coordinator

* 1. Apologies

1.5 Absent without Apologies

**MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

Proposed: Alyson MacKay

Seconded: Catherine Stewart

**CHALLENGES TO ORDER OF PAPER**

None

**DATES TO NOTE**

5.1 LGBTQ+ History Month – February

5.2 [People, Power, and the UK Parliament: An Introduction](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/t-59584e83/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fteams.microsoft.com%2Fl%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%253ameeting_OGIwNjg1ZWMtMTBkOC00NmZlLWI5YzktMDgyMGE2OTg1NTU5%2540thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%25224e8d09f7-cc79-4ccb-9149-a4238dd17422%2522%252c%2522Oid%2522%253a%25221caf38b8-e96a-4274-a0bb-49ee32350cdd%2522%257d&data=04%7C01%7Crosamund.vickers%40stir.ac.uk%7C92d77784ff734854f5a208d9db6b94a7%7C4e8d09f7cc794ccb9149a4238dd17422%7C0%7C0%7C637782077369262738%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=Wym5LcCo0ZAnlm%2BVskmTqn9HZrCDHIy6isZ5G7%2F4dlg%3D&reserved=0) – February 2nd

5.3 Communities Zone – 3rd February

5.4 RATE Relaunch – 4th February

5.5 Equalities Zone – 10th February

5.6 Disability in Sport Week – 14th to 20th February

5.7 Yoga Sessions with the Isha Foundation - 2nd February (Yoga for Mental Health) and 9th February (Yoga for Success)

**Elections & Resignations**

6.1 [Stirling Students’ Union Elections](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/elections/)

Nominations open 14th of February, close 25th of February.

Voting open on the 14th and 15th of March.

6.2 Resignations – Nisa Rajesh Panjwani (Equalities Officer (Women)), Sanhita Sanjay Gokhale (Arts Officer), Anuoluwapo Adegbola (International Officer)

**REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS**

7.1 Union President

NG Met with different societies regarding the NUS New Vision for Education campaign which will involve student strike action on the 2nd of March and discussing how Stirling can support this. Working with fellow NUS Conference Delegates on the University of Sanctuary motion which we hope to take to conference. Involved in the revision of different university strategy and related communication approaches. Working on Union Refreshers events. Working with the university Careers and Employability services on the Sustainable Careers Fair happening this semester.

Working with Esme (Health and Wellbeing Officer) on several wellness related events. Finally, the Green and Blue space will be opening this semester.

7.2 VP Education

CB The University will be offering 50-75% more teaching space and class sizes this semester. It is hoped that this will increase throughout this semester. The University will be releasing safety promotions, such as mask use, in the coming weeks. Whilst we greatly welcome the return to in person teaching, we recognize the increase of accessibility for students so I will be pushing for the option of hybrid for all this semester and subsequently a more permanent option for degrees with hybrid/accessible options. We will finally see the return of in person graduations. I am pushing for the dates to be confirmed as soon as possible to make sure that all students have an accessible Graduation and will be discussing possible gifts for graduating students.

Working alongside the Union’s Advocacy and Inclusion team, we have discussed our findings/recommendations regarding Ordinance 2 and Academic Integrity policy, pushing for improved practices. Worked with Esme (Health and Wellbeing) to create a paper proposing expansion of the wellbeing space. This was well received by Information Services and will be presented to USPG. The University are making a multi-million-pound investment for the next 3-5 years in our teaching and learning technology, covering tech such as the computers in classrooms through to the Wi-Fi infrastructure across the University’s buildings and accommodation. Finally, UCU have provided the University formal statutory notification that they intend to call 10 further days of strike action relating to the pay and USS pension dispute. Dates can be found on the [UCU website](https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/12072/Strike-dates-in-Four-Fights-and-USS-disputes#:~:text=27%20January%202022,-Following%20the%20decisions&text=In%20the%20USS%20dispute%2C%20there,and%2028%20February%2D2%20March.).

* 1. VP Communities

AM Lots of interest in clubs and societies at the Refreshers fair, and shared daily content advertising the different clubs and societies. Working closely with the LGBTQ+ Society, LGBTQ+ Staff Network and the university to support StirPride week 2022. Will be supporting Clubs and Soc’s with creating handover documents before exam season/AGM’s in April. Viewed the venue for the Clubs and Socs ball, tickets will be on sale soon. Advised changes and updates to Schedule 8 (Clubs and Societies) which were approved by the Union Constitutional Working Group and will be proposed at the next GM. Working with Nela and others on the Careers Sustainability fair, the Union Recycling campaign, the University Sustainability plan, and created a Conscious Planet team regarding soil degradation. First Bus has agreed to return of the night bus route round campus accommodation. Attended rent setting and accommodation prioritisation meetings. Rent increases have been proposed due to inflation and we will be working to abolish/least significantly reduce these rent increases as there appear to be no accommodation improvements to match the cost. Regarding accommodation prioritisation, the university team will now consider students not in first year who have yet to have a chance to live in Stirling/on campus due to the pandemic. Working with our Louis (Housing) we met with member of the Stirling Council about how to reduce the HMO cap in Stirling. Working with our Louis (BAME) to develop a Diversity Week, which will be the second last week of March. We will be hosting an open meeting for the Decolonising Stirling Campaign to try and increase engagement. The Erase the Grey campaign is now underway and Brig will be publishing an article about the campaign. We now have 245 personal alarms that we will be giving away for free to students through the Union shop. Working with the Widening Participation Students team to host an informal event for estranged, care experienced and carer students on Care Day, February the 18th.

7.4 Sports President

SC I have been meeting with our 50+ Sports Clubs to review how they found semester one and how we can help support them through semester two. Main comments from the review were many club’s feeling relieved and thankful that restrictions rarely affected activity. Moving forward we are keen to support club with fundraising plans, fixtures and succession planning.We ran another Sports Bazaar during Refreshers Week, which gave a needed boost to memberships for some clubs. We are hoping to host a Disability in Sport Week during w/c 14th February, with sessions including Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Tennis, Sit Volleyball and more. The aim is to engage students from this cohort that perhaps wouldn’t have previously engaged in the Sports Union and to highlight sessions and clubs that already happen weekly that are accessible for disabled students. Our Varsity event is scheduled to take place on 30th March against St Andrews. We are currently in the process of planning the Sports Ball. This event is a welcomed night of celebration for our clubs, adding to their student experience and concluding a successful year returning to sport.

**DISCUSSION AND DECISION TOPICS**

8.1 NUS University of Sanctuary Motion

For – 82

Against – 1

Abstain – 0

8.2 NUS Sexual Harassment and Assault Education Motion

For – 62

Against – 1

Abstain – 0

8.3 Stirling University Socially Responsible Investment Policy

For – 75

Against – 1

Abstain – 0

8.4 Stirling Students’ Union Election Information Update

RV Provides information regarding the upcoming Students’ Union election, with all information found on the [Students’ Union Elections website](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/elections/).

**RESERVED BUSINESS**

No reserved business.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

9.1 17th February 2022 at 5pm via Microsoft teams.