

# MINUTES

## General Meeting/Education Zone

### 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018



A meeting of the Students' Union General Meeting/Education Zone was held on **November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018** from **5:00pm in Lecture Theatre A4**.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

##### 1.1 Members Present

Astrid Smallenbroek	<b>AS</b>	Union President
Jamie Grant	<b>JG</b>	VP Communities
Daniel Wright	<b>DW</b>	VP Education
Caitlin Ormiston	<b>CO</b>	Sports President
Anuraag Mukhia	<b>AJ</b>	Clubs and Societies Officer
Stuart McLuckie	<b>SM</b>	NUS Delegate

##### 1.2 In Attendance

Clair Murray	<b>CM</b>	Democracy and Research Coordinator
Colin McNally	<b>CMN</b>	Director of Estates

##### 1.3 Observers

Nick Manton	<b>NM</b>	Communications Manager
Audrey-Clare Burns	<b>ACB</b>	Chief Executive

##### 1.4 Apologies

None

##### 1.5 Absent without Apologies

N/A

#### MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes approved and seconded.

#### CHALLENGES TO ORDER OF PAPER

#### DATES TO NOTE

- 4.1 Reclaim the night banner making session on 29<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 4pm in 2B38
- 4.2 Reclaim the night 7<sup>th</sup> of December

#### ELECTIONS & RESIGNATIONS

#### DISCUSSION AND DECISION TOPICS

- 8.1 Colin McNally discussing the campus masterplan

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Good afternoon everyone, I'm Colin McNally, the Director of Estates. I'm going to give you all a brief run through of the campus masterplan and will leave time for questions at the end. I will also leave email address at the end if anyone has any further questions.

We began by looking at the Pathfoot building as it's needing a good update. We're also looking at building 500 new bedrooms for student accommodation. In addition to this we are also looking at doing some work to the Cottrell building. We're also about to sign the contract for the new sports development, for campus central.

So the first development was the bus terminal up at the back of campus. We're trying to create a spine through the campus. \*\*\*Colin shows images of campus central\*\*\*. The interior is designed to be a big informal learning space. The upper floor is going to be a research space. We're trying to create more informal learning spaces throughout the campus.

We started the consultation on Campus Central last year. We will be asking students what they think about the new bus service and if they would like it to be continued. We are also looking at increasing car parking as well. The pods in the Cottrell courtyard I think are a great idea and a few ideas have been thrown around about putting them around the loch. Obviously they would have to be significantly sturdier than they are now. We have also been thinking about putting Artwork around the loch and creating more walking routes. In addition to this, there have been discussions around buying land that we don't currently own. We trialled some pilot rooms and looked at informal learning spaces. We're looking at the learning and teaching strategy and looking at North America as they are moving towards more small learning spaces.

When I first came here I was told that there was no land to build on but as you can see I don't think that is the case. We're potentially looking at building new lecture theatres with the Innovation park integration. When I worked at Dundee University, we spent £200 million on redevelopment and one of the most successful things I did was dig up a carpark and put a big grassy area.

There seems to be a bit of a disconnection between Pathfoot to the main library but we're looking at opening that building back up again and redeveloping it. A lot of the stuff we're doing is connecting back to what we've already done.

There is potential to build a big conference centre and Lecture theatres with Campus East.

We're looking at creating a new entrance which would tie up with the bus terminals. Areas to sit while waiting for bus with Wi-Fi. Again these would be classed as more informal learning spaces.

We are also looking at courtyard being covered so that people can sit there and be covered from the weather. We're trying to see if we can find the funding for this at the minute.

We do need to try and find more informal learning spaces. We're looking at other universities for good examples of this. We want feedback from you all to see if what we're doing is what we're supposed to be doing. New seats; informal learning spaces.

Colin's email address is [Colin.mcnally@stir.ac.uk](mailto:Colin.mcnally@stir.ac.uk)

#### **Student**

Have you thought about doing anything with the old garden building near Logie Kirk road?

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#### **CMN**

We're hoping to refurbish that space. I'd like to use it as accommodation. It is a listed building so we do need to do something with it as it's not going to go away.

#### **Student**

Have you consulted with environmental science about the wildlife?

#### **CMN**

We do environmental assessments as part of the process of building the buildings.

#### **Student**

What would the overall plan be for the Castle?

#### **CMN**

We've actually just discovered dry rot. A lot of our partners are there at the minute and I think it is a missed opportunity. When we're trying to attract International students, that castle is a piece of history on campus, so is a real asset to the university.

#### **Student**

You talk about more open study spaces but have you thought more about more private rooms for students with additional study needs.

#### **CMN**

I think you're right, we do need a blended approach.

#### **Student**

New accommodation is averaging at about £600 per month and accommodation that is a more reasonable price for most students hasn't been renovated for years and is in a pretty bad state!

#### **CMN**

I think the standards at all accommodation needs to go up.

#### **Student**

What do you intend to do about improving car parking at the university? Will you build a multi-storey car park?

#### **CMN**

Yes, we do of course realise that it is a problem and we are looking at different ways to solve this issue but having a multi-storey car park is not something that we are able to do. One of the main barriers to it would be planning permission.

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**Student**

There seems to be less car parking spaces. Is this not causing the university to have some financial loss?

**CMN**

Surprisingly, there are not less car parking spaces, there are actually more, the University of Stirling has quite a lot of car parking spaces actually. The Geography of Stirling makes it really difficult. We could create another 1000 car parking spaces but it would just be a sea of car parking.

**Student**

What are you currently doing to renovate old accommodation?

**CMN**

There is a plan to refurbish old accommodation. It's more a case of when the money becomes available to do that. There is money in the capital programme for refurbishment.

**Student**

I personally email the accommodation services every other week to get something fixed.

**CMN**

Again, it's an issue of finding money.

**Student**

If you refurbish old accommodation, would prices then go up?

**CMN**

I think the rents are set with the rent setting committee which the Student Union sit on.

**Student**

Yeah there are definitely more expensive towns but I think the University of Stirling is more expensive than what it's worth.

**CMN**

Watch out with the private accommodation e.g. extra costs.

**Student**

With regards to informal study spaces, are any planned to be specifically for Postgraduate/Research students?

**CMN**

Yes, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will have dedicated space.

**Student**

Will there be any updates to toilets because some of the toilets are in a really poor state.

**CMN**

There are no current plans but yes it is an issue.

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#### **Student**

Do you have any plans to create any autism friendly flats?

#### **CMN**

I'm unsure of the answer to that, but if we were building new accommodation we would need to look at all disabilities.

#### **Student**

Pods sometimes have a connection issue.

#### **CMN**

The pods would be more robust and are looking tired even though they are quite new.

#### **AJ**

Would new buildings have gender neutral toilets?

#### **CMN**

This has been raised at a campus central meeting with Astrid. We need to look at that over the whole campus and look at a policy on that.

## 8.2 Gender Neutral Toilets Motion

After 4pm there is nowhere people can go to access gender neutral toilets. I am aware that there is a current motion in place, but this motion gives more detail and makes things more concrete. I'd like to be clear that we will still leave gendered bathrooms, we are just asking for more gender neutral bathrooms. We would like gender neutral bathrooms to be built into any new buildings at the university. We would like one bathroom per floor in Pathfoot and Cottrell, and at least one in Logie and Iris Murdoch. The signage will tell you what is in the room so for example, the toilets would say 'stalls' or 'urinals'. I'd also like to add that absolutely anyone can use these bathrooms.

Does anyone have any questions?

#### **Student**

Should it not say gender neutral bathrooms?

#### **Proposer**

As someone who identifies as trans, you potentially feel uncomfortable, or be harassed. By simply stating what is inside the toilets, this provides facilities for someone who just wants to use the toilet. We don't feel that it needs to be a big deal that they are gender neutral, just stating the facilities in themselves. If they were to be called Gender Neutral toilets, we believe that just adds unnecessary labels.

#### **Student**

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What toilets will be gender neutral in the University/ Union?

**AS**

I'm currently writing up a paper to take to the uni and would work with Colin to identify suitable toilets.

**Student**

Would this require renovation?

**AS**

Just signage.

**Student**

Would there be any cost implications?

**AS**

Building extra toilets would incur an extra cost.

#### Motion Passed

#### 8.3 NUS and Delegate Accountability Policy Motion (with documents for reference)

NUS Delegates are only accountable through me (as an NUS Delegate), there is nothing that says I have to gather your feedback. I would like for the following 3 things to become mandatory; the main delegate rules surrounding feedback be implemented, make sure the union gives me the ability to gather feedback, motion to take to the NUS Conference that encourages other unions to do the same.

**Student**

Why do you want to make it mandatory to gather feedback once every fortnight, why not once per month?

**SM**

It doesn't necessarily have to be the same person, we can spread out the responsibility. The point isn't that we're going to make this strict, it's just to get a culture there to make your feedback matter and ensure that I'm not just voting for my own political opinion.

**Student**

Is it every club or every society that the delegates would have to gather feedback from?

**SM**

No, that is why I've put options. We could simply have a stall in the atrium and people would come and consult with us. This motion is simply to make sure that we bother to get your opinions, so your feedback matters.

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**AJ**

As a veteran of the conferences you may not be able to get enough of an opinion on certain things,

**SM**

The alternative is to just trust me, and certain people disagree with me on a lot of things. My point really isn't to make it strict that you have to stick to these rules. For example, if there is a motion on something about Brexit, I could talk to the Union, they would advertise it, or I could stand in the Atrium or go and visit different groups etc. I want to just increase the ability of people to express their point of view to me.

**RP**

What is an objective measurement of the opinions of the student body?

**SM**

Using apps, websites, surveys and so forth, the mechanisms are there to gather feedback.

#### **Motion Passed**

#### 8.4) Save Our Students' Union Amendment Motion

The original motion was intended for the Union to scrutinise political groups but the problem is that there has been no indication that this has been implemented. I want to place more visibility and procedural control to the implementation of motions.

5- That a new procedural motion be created, regarding motion approval at General Meetings in Section 10.3 of Schedule 5 (Standing Orders Schedule) of the Union Constitution;  
“(i) That the motion be withdrawn if determined to not be in ‘direct student interests’, as defined by the Union Political Participation Policy Statement. This may only be invoked after the motion has been formally introduced by the proposer’s opening statement.”

6- That the Union Political Participation Policy statement be formally incorporated into the Union’s Core Policy Areas.

**Student**

Is this by any chance because you lost the vote last semester?

**SM**

I’m putting this forward because we didn’t have time in the last General Meeting to have a vote on it.

**Student**

This motion seems to have a good intention but it disrupts the way student unions are supposed to work. The peoples vote motion from the last General Meeting (SM mentioned how that wasn’t in students interests) the peoples vote was in the interest of students at large. Plenty of students’ opinions are political and I think it is a bad thing to stop the union from being political. I think that is why we should oppose this motion today.

**SM**

Motion was in context of the union and at the time what happened with the CND. Essentially, I want to more thoroughly scrutinise political endorsements.

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#### **Student**

You say it is to bring democracy back to these meetings. If we voted to support a political campaign, it wouldn't matter that we would be guilty by association. I don't think political neutrality is in student's best interest (this motion is basically a re-hashing of political neutrality)

If there was a pressuring issue going on at the university, would this not be an issue that this policy might stop the union representing us?

#### **SM**

This isn't a neutrality motion it just means we need to further scrutinise things. EDI policy wouldn't be compromised because it is part of this motion.

#### **Student**

If this is enacted, does this mean that someone would object to something based on union political participation?

#### **SM**

Yes, if someone says I want to vote this down that, it would go on the minutes saying that this motion has been found not be in the interests of students.

## REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

### 7.1 Union President

There will be a Brexit info session on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November to give EU students more information about how Brexit will potentially impact them. There has been additional seating put in the Atrium but we are also hoping to get new green chairs in Atrium. Jamie and I are working with First Bus on an ongoing basis and have attended a meeting with them last week to discuss the on-going service issues. I am also working closely with Equality Officers to make sure their campaigns are moving forward. I've also been doing work around Care Experienced students.

### 7.2 VP Education (Extended Update)

I'm currently doing work around the new case management system at the university, I'm working on various student consultations, creating our new Student Partnership Agreement and also doing some work around transitions. Other work I'm focussing on is the first focus group around Learning Analytics which is leading up to the creation of student led ethical policy.

Guidance on the university website isn't being updated so I'm compiling an A-Z of student services as well as a flowchart style system of points of contact across the university. Further training for Personal Tutors. I'm also going to be reviewing the Module rep training for next semester. RATE awards launch next Monday which is really exciting, we will be out in the Atrium with sweets so come along, get some free sweets, and say something 'sweet' about you're a staff member. There are also vegan options. I'll be putting out more information about that online. I hope everyone has lovely Christmas.

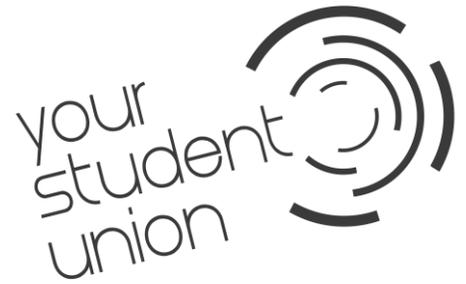
### 7.3 VP Communities

November so far has been an extremely busy month, with activities taking place right across the Communities Remit. Currently Volunteering Society have led on a Christmas fundraising initiative

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for Start-Up Stirling, with re-used disposable coffee cups placed around campus to collect spare change. More generally, clubs have been doing fantastic work this semester, with trips, events and activities pushing our active memberships to 1149. More work will be undertaken next semester to drive this further.

The Union held a joint meeting between the University, Stirling Council and First Bus last week, to discuss the on-going service issues. A massive thank you to everyone who filled in both Surveys, the data was invaluable in making the case that students are simply not satisfied with First's performance. As part of on-going talks, and with a view of further network changes down the line in Feb/March, we've proposed a re-routing of UL services back out the entrance to the University, to bring the refurbished Pathfoot bus stop back into service; and limited services in the morning and evenings from Hillfoots, coming into campus to the Bus Hub. Both proposals are under consideration from First management, with a further meeting planned for Monday.

#### 7.4 Sports President

1750 members across 53 clubs and working with more clubs that will affiliate next semester. November has been particularly busy. This month we launched the new Challenge Yourself campaign that has replaced 5k a day. We've also had a number of sports clubs take part in the 'Movember' campaign. Massive well done to everyone for your effort there. This just emphasises that sport is also about giving back to the community, and not just competing. Next Tuesday night there will be a UV sport event as part of she can she will. Its £2 and there will be a lot of different activities on offer. Its going to be exciting so check that out if you're free. We've also been doing a lot more club development and more knowledge sharing forums. This idea is more about linking clubs up more.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1

#### RESERVED BUSINESS

*For anyone who would like to have a chat with Josh about housing, please stay after the meeting.*