

AGENDA

General Meeting

22nd October 2020



There will be a meeting of the Students' Union General Meeting on **Thursday 2nd October 2020** from **5:00pm via Microsoft Teams**.

IN ATTENDANCE

- 1.1 Members Present
 - Amy Smith AS Union President
 - Edd Keeler EK Sports President
 - Lexi Ehresman LE VP Education
 - Josh Muirhead JM VP Communities
 - Cian Ireland CI Housing Officer
 - Altair Seel AS Non-Traditional Students' Officer
 - Euan Stainbank ES Engagement Officer
 - Avar Wilson AV Equalities Officer (LGBT+)

- 1.2 In Attendance
- 1.3 Observers
 - Rosamund Vickers RV Democracy and Representation Coordinator
- 1.4 Apologies
 - Matthew Morrison Sustainability Officer
 - Jamie McDiarmid Co-Curricular Officer
 - Sonny Bailey Postgraduate Officer
 - Dimitrios Terzis International Officer
 - Jack Williamson Arts Officer
 - Sam Davis Health and Wellbeing Officer
 - Juliette Oliveras Sports Communication Officer
 - Tash Miller Sports Participation and Engagement Officer
 - Holly Kinsella Equalities Officer (Disabled)
 - Jess Reid Equalities Officer (Women)
 - Jason Sin Equalities Officer (BAME)

- 1.5 Absent without Apologies

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Adopting minutes from previous meeting (AGM)
Proposed: Josh Muirhead
Seconded: Lily Climie

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CHALLENGES TO ORDER OF PAPER

DATES TO NOTE

- 5.1 Black History Month
- 5.2 Global Climate Change Week 19th-23rd
- 5.3 By-Election Nominations open 23rd and close 30th Oct
- 5.4 Reading Week 26th-30th Oct
- 5.5 Equalities Zone 29th Oct

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ELECTIONS & RESIGNATIONS

6.1 Union By-Elections (dates above)

6.2 Elections Committee (x3)

Candidates: Aaron Caulfield, Sonya Rowe, Anne Marie Hamfeldt, Kade Turner

Elected: Aaron Caulfield, Sonya Rowe, Kade Turner

6.3 Elections of CZEC Lay Members

6.3.1 Society President (x2)

Candidates: Daniel Deery, Avar Wilson

Elected: Daniel Deery, Avar Wilson

6.3.2 Lay Members (x3)

Candidates: Lauren Harper, Lily Climie, Jennifer Morton, Alyson MacKay

Elected: Lily Climie, Jennifer Morton, Alyson MacKay

REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Union President

AS Working throughout the summer on the Environmental Network, for students who are interested in working on environmental projects. Several working groups have now been set up from this. Work ongoing around Gender Based Violence, launching during the 16 Days of Action consultations for students to be involved in. Met with First Bus, wanting to introduce a new scheme called Tap and Cap, open to feedback from students. Working on response to the ever-changing situation due to Covid-19 with the University and external bodies.

7.2 VP Education

LE Working on response to the ever-changing situation due to Covid-19 with the University and external bodies. Looking to challenges and benefits to the change to online learning. Working with the Faculty Officers, Module and Programme Reps, good engagement and work coming from them. Been training the remaining final recruitment Faculty Officers. Postgraduate Faculty Officer recruitment is still open. Working on the student survey in relation to Covid-19. Various topics, but some specifics, many students were unhappy with the 3 hour booking slots at the Library, so I worked with Information Services to get this extended to 6 hours. Booking system is also seen as confusing, work is being done with Information Services to hopefully clear up any confusion. Students expressed a desire for group study in a space way. Working with the Library on facilitating this in a safe way. PGR students expressed concerns about having access to study space, worked with Information Services and there is now a dedicated PGR study space. Students also highlighted issues with student timetables, work is being done to improve this for the Spring Semester. Finally, due to issues raised between Microsoft Teams and Big Blue Button, so plans to move exclusively to Teams to resolve issues with this.

Additionally, work is being done on the Sustainable Lifestyle Kit for students. £1000 funding is in place, currently reaching out for volunteers so please reach out if you are interested. Finally, working with Amy on our contribution to the University ELIR.

7.3 VP Communities

JM Working closely with Elaine Shepard and Edd Keeler to find ways for Clubs and Societies to meet safely on campus. Being done on a case by case (such as Airthrey Cottage, Media Societies). Working on sustainability matters, meeting with University on further actions. Met with Alan Smith and Keith Brown on behalf of the Students' Union to feedback on student concerns. Attended a meeting with Richard Lochhead along with roughly 60 other students' union officers regarding restrictions facing students and current funding. Lexi and I have been in contact with

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HISA on a project for ERASMAS students. Working with Student Support Services to help hire a new Counsellor. Hope to work closely with part-time officers moving forward. Finally, recommend EU students attend the Brexit and EU Settlement Scheme event next week hosted by Dimitrios our International Officer and the Citizens Rights Project. Information can be found on the Union Website and Social Media.

7.4 Sports Union President

ED Working on a safe return to sport. Being achieve via risk assessments, and discussions with the University of Stirling Sport and sports clubs. Online Give it a Gos has been really impressive. Clubs continuing to work on the inclusion and participation of 1st year students. Working with the other officers on various inclusion events, such as the BAME Student Survey, and working with Avar our LGBTQ+ Officer to ensure inclusion in sport.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION TOPICS

8.1 Update on Covid-19 measures and support.

AS By show of hands (via Teams), could people show if they understand what is place for students in relation to provisions and protocols regarding Covid-19. *Majority show of hands.*

Interested in this as one of the main feedbacks from the survey around communication from the University, as many students feel communication has not always been clear. In addition to current work, we have introduced Pandemic Pals in collaboration with STEER to facilitate connections and community between students during the pandemic.

More information and sign-ups can be accessed here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxvbQAZ3eFWJB2sxxgFd7PRbYI_5BaGIS_HkenWYCKwYm37zQ/viewform

A lot of feedback from the Lexi's survey which is being worked on, but please reach out if you have any further questions or ideas.

OM When the minutes come out, will there be links and further information. I am a new Postgraduate student so we have only just started and there are a lot of changes, so would like to share this information out with other Postgraduate Students.

Further information on the different lines of support from the Students' Union and on ways to meet other students and get involved, please follow this link:

<https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/news/article/6013/Supporting-your-University-experience/>

8.2 Sustainability Working Group Motion

Proposer: Josh Muirhead

Secunder: Edd Keeler

JM Motion to create a 5th standing committee to the Students' Union. With Sustainability being such an important matter to students and the world, I believe the Union should have a standing committee to work on sustainability matters. The motion and attached document outline the procedural information. This group would be important as it would hold the Union to account on sustainability matters.

AS Any questions?

ES Noted that in the supporting document that the members of the working group have the Chief Executive of the Students' Union as a voting member alongside the democratically elected members of the committee. Why is there additional voting seat for non-democratically elected official.

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JM I have included various elected officers, but also included the Chief Executive, Commercial Manager (non-voting member) and others (non-voting members) as this could have a large effect on various Union areas so thought it important to have them onboard. The Chief Executive also sits on the Union Equalities Steering Group as a voting member, so thought it should follow this process.

AS Any more questions? No?
Any comments for?
Any comments against?

OM Surely the Chief Executive should be an instrument of the will of the membership rather than a policy maker on sustainability issues. In their other voting roles, it is a very technical and managerial position.

OM Supportive of the sustainability arm. There is a large element of sustainability in housing issues, postgrad MSc and student and lecturers would likely be able to feed into this group.

CI For the motion but is there a possibility for an amendment for the Chief Executive to be moved from a voting member to a non-voting member. I think the Chief Executive should be implementing which is decided by the elected officers rather than deciding policy themselves.

AS Amendment from the floor is accepted at the Chair's discretion.

Amendment to the Motion is put forward to a vote: Amendment is passed.
For – 60
Against – 1
Abstain - 6

Motion as amended is put to a vote: Motion is passed
For – 51
Against – 12
Abstain - 17

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26th November 2020 at 5pm via Microsoft Teams

RESERVED BUSINESS