

AGENDA

General Meeting

26th March 2020



There will be a meeting of the Students' Union General Meeting on **Thursday 26th March 2020** from **5:00pm online (details to join on the Union Website – Union Meetings)**.

IN ATTENDANCE

1.1 Members Present

Chloe Whyte CW Union President

1.2 In Attendance

1.3 Observers

Rosamund Vickers RV Democracy and Representation Coordinator
Elaine Shepard ES Activities and Volunteer Coordinator

1.4 Apologies

1.5 Absent without Apologies

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CHALLENGES TO ORDER OF PAPER

DATES TO NOTE

5.1 Updates on all Dates to Note will be referenced by the relevant Sabbatical

ELECTIONS & RESIGNATIONS

6.1 Election of Union President, Sports President, VP Education, VP Communities

Amy Smith, Edd Keeler, Lexi Ehresmann, Josh Muirhead

6.2 Election of Executive

CW - Can be found online on the Union Website

REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Union President

CW – Taking part in weekly meetings with all Scottish Officers with NUS, discussions about Coronavirus. NUS Scotland conference last week, 2 Stirling Motions were brought to conference, voting will be closed within a week. NUS UK Conference next week, been talking to NUS Presidents what they plan to do for Scottish Unions. Chaired final Equalities zone meeting, with new qualities officers elected, also raised how to draw work of our year to a close. Inspirational Women will be now done online, we have prepared a virtual ceremony tomorrow, more details will be released shortly, please come along and watch!

7.2 VP Education

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CW Video can be found on my Facebook

7.3 VP Communities

JM (read by CW) - Hi there, so it's been a rather intense few weeks for us all, but the community zone has kept pushing forward! Firstly we've surpassed last year's overall number of Club Memberships, this is fantastic and I'm beyond proud of all the Clubs & Socs for the events and activities they've put on throughout the year including since the end of room bookings and the beginning of the Lockdown Period. Most of my focus over the last few weeks has been on the university as well as Unions response to COVID-19 through working with the Senior Management team, accommodation services and the Sabbs. We unfortunately have had to cancel Clubs & Socs Ball, however myself (Josh) and Elaine are looking at what alternative arrangements we can do! Stay safe and look out for one and other!

7.4 Sports Union President

CW Video can be found on my Facebook

DISCUSSION AND DECISION TOPICS

8.1 Covid-19 Update on impact

CW – Information is currently quite scattered, so wanted to provide this opportunity to ask any questions now. General update, graduation is not cancelled, but postponed to when it is safe to hold a graduation, but in the meantime, student will graduate in absentia. Exam update will be coming shortly from the Uni. The university buildings are now shutting, but we are all still here, but remotely to protect the safety of students and staff, pharmacy, pronto, laundry, NISA are still open as they are necessary. After a successful conversations with Uni, you can now leave your accommodation contracts early without continuing to be charged rent, and students who will remain in Uni accommodation will not be charged rent after June and can stay in their accommodation past the end of contact.

UPDATE – Uni has emailed exam update, please check your university email.

CW – Any questions? (answers questions from the Facebook live chat)

OM – Students who are stuck at home and cannot get back to accommodation to remove belongings?

CW – Reach out to Uni accommodation, we are getting updates about the lockdown every 3 weeks, so there will be chances to gather your items.

OM – What support will be given to private tenants who are in Stirling?

CW – We provide guidance to students who do not live in university accommodation, Josh has been answering questions and been in contact with Shelter with regarding accommodation concerns.

OM – Will I still be able to access the pharmacy.

CW – Yes, it is required to stay open, as if the GP.

OM – Has or will the Uni put in place for students who loose wages due to covid-19

CW – The government has been releasing initiatives for those who lose wages due to Covid-19. The University currently does not have anything in place, but it is better to make this a Scotland wide push, hence why we are working with NUS on this.

CW – Our Advocacy team is on had to help, reach out to Amy Smith VP Education and Lynn Mayer our Advocacy and Inclusion Development Coordinator.

OM – Are 1st and 2nd years going into the next year automatically?

CW – All info can be found in the email from the Uni.

OM – How to deal with demanding landlords and bills?

CW – I would recommend reaching out to Stirling Students Tenants Union, as they can provide expertise.

OM – Why are students still expected to undertake assignments in the current climate?

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CW – The university is finding a balance about the struggles of students at this time, combined with the needs to assess people for progression into further years.

CW- I will stop taking question now, but if you have any further question please reach out!

8.2 Initiation Policy Motion

CW (reading out Gill's proposal speech) – Social activities must be organised in a safe manner without fear of harassment or bullying. Participation in any such activities is completely optional for all members. They must allow for all cultural and personal beliefs in which members can opt-out without fear of undue pressure, reprisal, non-selection for groups or any other form of discrimination. It is the responsibility of club committees, and all ordinary members, to respect the rights and decisions of all students participating in a social event and to actively ensure that those rights are not compromised by others or the activity in question. Any event or activity organised on behalf of a student organisation that would constitute an initiation should be directed to, and dealt with, by the University of Stirling Student Union Discipline Schedule.

CW – Any questions? No. Any arguments for or against? I will pick questions from the comments (as would be done at a physically meeting by a show of hands) and Gill will reply to your comments within the chat.

OM – Initiation is perhaps not an appropriate word, as this tends to only be associated with the start of the year, whereas hazing would perhaps be more appropriate given it covers the full year. Also, Initiations can be non-alcoholic and welcoming, so hazing would be a better word.

OM – What is to stop societies remaining initiations so they can still run such behaviour?

GT – Initiation is an overall term that is often used to describe social activities that have associations of humiliation, peer pressure and fear.

FURTHER COMMENTS ANSWERED WITHIN THE COMMENT SECTION OF THE FACEBOOK LIVE FEED, NOT ALL COMMENTS WERE FOUND SO COULD NOT BE RECORDED HERE.

CW - Voting is now open on Mentimeter

For – 48

Against – 7

Abstain – 1 (abstains include those who were present but did not vote)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TBC

RESERVED BUSINESS