

# MINUTES

## General Meeting

### October 4th, 2018



There will be a meeting of the Students' Union General Meeting/Communities Zone on **Thursday, October 4th, 2018** from **5:00pm** in **Lecture Theatre A4**.

In order to ensure the meeting is kept to time, please ensure all attached papers are read in advance.

#### 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 Communities
Caitlin Ormiston	<b>CO</b>	Sports President
Paul MacLaine	<b>PM</b>	Faculty Officer (CMC)
Georgia Laverick	<b>GL</b>	Faculty Officer (Psychology)
Kamilla Lind	<b>KL</b>	Faculty Officer (Literature and Languages)
Abbe Burrell	<b>AB</b>	Faculty Officer (ITE)
Rhiannon Lewis	<b>RL</b>	Faculty Officer (ITE)

##### 1.2 In Attendance

*A full list of attendance is available on request*

##### 1.3 Observers

Nick Manton	<b>NM</b>	Communications Manager
Clair Murray	<b>CM</b>	Democracy and Research Coordinator
Audrey-Clare Burns	<b>AB</b>	Chief Executive

##### 1.4 Apologies

None

##### 1.5 Absent without Apologies

N/A

#### MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Adopting minutes from previous meeting, confirmed and seconded. No matters arising.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business or challenges to paper

#### CHALLENGES TO ORDER OF PAPER

No challenges to the order of the paper

#### DATES TO NOTE

- 5.1 By-Election Nominations Close on 5th October, Voting Opens 15th&16th
- 5.2 Education Zone 11th October
- 5.3 Equalities Steering Group 8th November
- 5.4 Housing talk on 17th October 1.30-2.30pm in 2V2

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- 5.5 Thoughts on 10th October in Atrium
- 5.6 Week beginning 15th October Gathering more feedback on First Bus
- 5.7 Student Accommodation Feedback 22nd November in Atrium
- 5.8 All November 5k a day
- 5.9 All October Black History Month
- 5.10 Week beginning 15th October is Climate Change Week
- 5.11 This Girl Can 13th November

## ELECTIONS & RESIGNATIONS

### 6.1 Elections Committee (X3)

Students were asked if there were interested in being part of the elections committee and to come to the front of the lecture theatre if they would like to put themselves forward. Three students put themselves forward and were subsequently elected after a short speech and a vote. **Finlay Allmond, Rowan Daly** and **Euan Stainbank** were elected.

## REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

### 7.1 Union President

- We presented Brexit report the union conducted on International Students' experiences which went well and we're planning on hosting another session with MPs, MSPs etc.
- Mental health and wellbeing strategy – we're working on how we keep students well, prevent mental ill health from escalating, and how to deal with crisis situations.
- Attended private renters meeting. We will now be having an event on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October where we will provide an update on the new legislation that has come in, which will affect most students who have recently signed a lease.
- The Union as a whole launched strategic plan and it can be found on the Students' Union website.
- We are now offering free sanitary products to students at the university with environmentally friendly and sustainable options such as a Mooncup in the Green and Blue space.

### 7.2 VP Education

- Thanks to everyone for making Freshers great!
- Next Thoughts On will be next Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October in the Atrium on the Student Partnership Agreement.
- Student-led ethical policy is in the works and will be created next semester.
- Working on informing students about the rooms that are available to study in via both online systems and more simple methods such as if an empty unlocked classrooms is in Cottrell, it is available for use unless someone else is in it.
- Personal tutor system; making sure the information provided on the website and in person is up-to-date. Making sure personal tutors get training that they need to fulfil their role.
- Early work on transitions and inductions. Making sure that if you are transitioning into honours year you have the right support available. Or if you are transitioning from Forth Valley College on a 2+2 that when you arrive you are welcomed just the same as anyone else. Has been in discussions with Sabbatical Officers at Forth Valley College about that.

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#### 7.3 VP Communities

- 'Give it a go' is going well and we have over 800 members of Clubs and Societies.
- Working on 3 priorities for the year; **Mental Health, Divestment Campaign, the Clubs and Societies experience.**
- We're taking a 3 pronged approach for mental health; Steer Mentoring Programme - we now have 24 Steer Captains, arranging Scottish mental Health First Aid sessions for Committee members to attend, feeding into conversations for a joint mental health strategy between the University and the Union.
- With regards to the Divestment Campaign; the University state that they do not currently invest in Fossil Fuel but they want to 'dig deeper' and provide us with a 100% guarantee.
- We're working on a new booking system to improve Clubs and Societies booking rooms, which will be a similar booking system that the university uses internally. Working alongside the University to improve the bus services. Developing links with the local government and working on projects with them.

#### 7.4 Sports President

- Has successful start 1300 sports union members,
- SU has met with governing bodies and local clubs, making sure clubs get the best opportunities; training facilities; working with new sports clubs; 7/8 new sports clubs are being set up.
- Making sure campus central isn't affecting sports clubs
- Setting up new development system for example around safeguarding so that clubs can work appropriately.
- A huge focus on 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind': Sports Bazaar, 'Give it a go', INTO sports day. Well done to everyone on sports clubs committees as everything has gone really well.
- Also doing a lot of planning over the next couple of months, November will be busy as there is 5k a day but with a slight difference. Also in November 'This girl can'.

## DISCUSSION AND DECISION TOPICS

### First Bus Update:

We're very aware that this is an issue that is affecting all students and have met several times with first bus about this over the past year (as we are second year Sabbatical Officers). Unfortunately there has not been any improvements and some would say that the services have actually got worse. We have conducted a survey on this issue and some of the survey results will be published in the next week. In two weeks' time there will be another survey. If things don't improve, First Bus will have to take action and improve their services. So if you see the same survey coming out again, please fill it out!

Jamie met with the Provost of Stirling who sits on university court and also met with people from transport department at Stirling Council. They didn't realise anything was wrong with the buses and didn't actually have a transport strategy. In 2019, the Government will pass a bill to give local authorities more power over transport.

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You stated that if First Bus won't compromise, further action will have to be taken, what will this be?

**AS**

Talking to council, reaching out to MSPs to see if they will help us take further action. We have also been talking about boycotts but need to be very careful as we don't want to take action that would hurt students, or prevent students from coming to campus. If you have any suggestions about what you would like us to do we'd be more than happy to take that on board.

**JG**

The university said, maybe we'll have to start speaking to other providers and First Bus said that they could try that but maybe the ULs will get cut. At the end of the day it is in the interest of First Bus to get more people on buses as they get more money and we want students to take the bus and for it to be reliable and affordable. Everyone in the room wants the same thing at the end of the day.

**Student**

Would there be an option to put in more stalls for Nexbike?

**AS**

We're putting in more stalls for bikes which wouldn't be Nextbike but as part of a separate project. Sustainable travel options is really something we're looking into and we do want to increase the amount of students walking and cycling to campus.

**AD** (Alasdair Duncan)

I was planning on taking the bus to campus this semester but because of the situation with the buses, that's no longer an option for me. I'm just wondering if there is anything that could be done about parking as I have a permit but it is very difficult to find a parking space.

**JG**

It is difficult for the university to increase parking facilities because the council has regulations in place. There are no plans to build a multi-storey carpark.

**Student**

I had to arrive for 11 and had to circle the carpark for 1 hour and had to park in Bridge of Allan and as a result I missed my lecture. Is it possible to build a multi-storey carpark?

**JG**

Sorry, we just mentioned that a multi-storey car park wouldn't be possible

**AD**

What about a park and ride service?

**JG**

This has been thought of actually. But the best locations would be at carparks where people have been parking for years for free so there may be some upset caused there and involvement from the council, but these conversations are definitely ongoing. It's a difficult situation because we can't have 14,000 car parking spaces.

**Student**

Yesterday we came to campus and parked in car share area and someone told us that we had to have two car parking permits to park in the space. I thought this was very unreasonable.

**AS**

We will have a look into that and see what we can do.

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#### **Student**

Is it possible to do a Freedom of information request to first bus? We could their service to another service and do some comparisons before and after services were cut.

**JY** (Jin Yu)

Are students allowed to row transportation boats on the lake?

**AS**

I think this is something we can speak about it after the meeting.

**HW** (Harry Williamson)

First bus did the consultation in July when there are very few students here. This is problematic.

**AS**

Yes, I agree. It was nothing short of inadequate.

**AC** (Annabelle Cooper)

With consultations with first bus, have you brought up their mobile app? It doesn't work most of the time and when it doesn't, the driver won't let me on the bus.

#### **Student**

I am disappointed in transport. Perhaps we could share the details of the bus traffic website? I'm surprised you have a bus stop and you can't see when the next bus is.

Internships with first bus to help them? UoS could be the enabler for the success of First Bus.

#### Brexit Motion

**JG**

Daniel and I have brought this motion together based on research the UKISA project that the Union undertook, and also from feedback from students and in the wider student movement. The People's Vote is to let people have a final say on the Brexit deal. It's not a case of saying that leave is better than remain or remain is better than leave, it's to give the people a voice. 52% of people have voted to leave the EU but we still have no clarity on what it actually means. Does it mean an end to freedom of movement so that you can't go on holiday without visas? Does it mean an end to Erasmus, an exchange programme for students? Does it mean an end to international staff to come over and teach us? We simply don't know. Our motion is about mandating the union to join this campaign, to attend rally's, to retweet them. Both NUS Scotland and NUS UK are engaging with it and about 20 other student unions are as well, along with MPs from most political parties. This is an opportunity that we shouldn't let pass us by. If we have kids and our kids come to university in 20 or 40 years and things are worse for them, and people ask "So what did you do?" what are you going to say to them?

**AS**

Does anyone have any questions?

#### **Student**

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You say you want people to have a final say on this deal, but on what terms? Leave or remain or deal Brexit vs no deal Brexit?

**JG**

Unsure, as it would depend on what the deal actually is.

**AS**

I don't think you can have a vote on a no deal situation

**JG**

Unions usually have a bad reputation for stuff like where they try to solve world problems with a vote, and I totally accept that, but we can do something and throw our weight behind this campaign for a final say and the government needs a mandate.

**FA** (Finlay Allmond)

Do you actually think this is a fair and impartial document on mandating the Union to engage with the People's Vote campaign, or is this your personal attack on Brexit?

**JG**

We derived this motion from another student union in Wales so that's where some of the different language comes from. I think that since leave won, it is fair to criticise that victory and to criticise the legitimacy of it.

**FA**

If you have issues with how the vote on leaving the EU was conducted, why are you bringing it up here? Is that not a separate issue?

**JG**

What we're saying is that this isn't a rehash of the same debate, we now know things that we didn't know before and this is a chance to give people a final say on what they have learned in two years. We were told that things would be a lot simpler than this, that there would be a clear mandate for us to leave the EU and that is not the case.

**Student**

Are we voting to vote on a new vote?

**JG**

The People's Vote campaign is asking to have another vote on the final deal. We don't know what the final deal is yet and I don't think even Theresa May knows what the final deal is yet. So when that time comes, people will have the opportunity to say this is or isn't what I wanted.

**AS**

It's not a vote on whether or not to leave the EU, so it's not a new 2016 referendum. The vote is on the Brexit deal.

**JG**

If you look at the last paragraph, it states what the Union's stance would be in the case of a People's Vote. The Union would let people come together and make their mind up themselves and take whatever side they wanted. The union would be impartial at that stage, just like in 2014 with the Scottish Independence Referendum, because that is only right.

**Student**

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In terms of a second referendum, if the turnout was higher, how do you ensure the legitimacy of that vote?

**JG**

This is a good question and I think this is something that would be ironed out when the time came.

**Student**

I'm just wondering what you can do to help provide students with visas once Brexit happens?

**AS**

I think that is a separate question that we need to have with the university.

**Student**

This question is about a 'no deal' situation. I just want to say that in a no deal situation, people should still have a right to endorse a no deal situation. There needs to be a deadline. If the union could support that, it would be fantastic.

**AS**

Okay, does anyone want to speak against the motion?

**SM**

I just want to start off by saying this isn't an argument for remaining in, or leaving the EU, this is to criticise the motion as I feel there would be negative consequences on campus. There was a motion passed in 2013 called the 'Trident Nuclear Disarmament Policy', this sought to officially endorse the CND. When the CND conducted a controversial protest, the union had to officially endorse it two years ago. What happened then, was when students disagreed with this, they were intimidated, bullied and slandered on this campus. Because the union officially endorsed the CND, those students felt as though they couldn't go to their union to be officially endorsed. That is a big problem. Secondly, I'd like to establish whether or not I think this motion is neutral or not. In contractual law, what tends to be the focus of whether or not a contract exists is not whether a contract says that it is a contract, but the terms in the agreement itself. If you look at the terms in this motion, it cannot be neutral by its own definition. Firstly, as the gentleman here pointed out, it highlights completely irrelevant points when it comes to student interests.

**AS**

Nobody wants to speak against the motion so we will move on to anyone who wants to speak for the motion.

**SM**

Can I continue my speech?

**AS**

Yes Stuart, you have two minutes.

**SM**

The motion explicitly names two 'pro EU' organisations. I want to suggest improvements to this motion that I believe will help support every student on this campus. I would like to remove specific names from this motion and work with representatives from all sides of the debate to form an independent series of policies from within the Union itself and propose the motion based on that, and to refrain from attempting to redefine the referendum. I would say to conclude my speech, if we think the people of Britain should have a referendum on this issue, why can't the people on this campus have a referendum on this issue, on this motion. So I'd say to Jamie, if you

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want to be consistent with your points, propose a referendum on this motion to the whole student body

**AS**

Okay, we're going to open up this motion to the floor for amendments. Does anyone want to make an amendment?

Nope?

Okay, so now we're going to move this motion to a vote.

**Motion Passed**

*'Save Our Students' Union Amendment' Motion **Withdrawn***

#### INTO Officer Motion

**DW**

Over the summer, and since the start of the semester I have been in discussion with INTO. INTO students require the same representation as anyone else. There has been an INTO officer introduced in order to improve representation among INTO students. However, after conversations with INTO, this system wasn't working for them because they work with 6 cohorts. We are now working closely with INTO to provide students with more representation.

I would therefore like to rescind the original INTO Officer Motion.

**AS**

Does anyone have any questions?

**Student**

What are the different cohorts?

**DW**

The different cohorts are different streams of students. The issue with the INTO officer post was also to do with timing. There are cohorts that start throughout the whole year. One rep can't manage 6 streams of students.

**Student**

What is going to happen in the interim?

**DW**

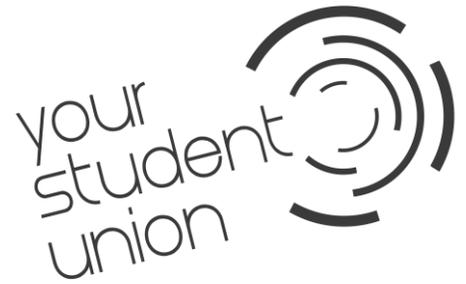
A module rep style of representation.

**AS**

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Does anyone want to speak against the motion?

No?

We're now going to open up this motion to the floor for amendments. Does anyone want to make an amendment?

Nope?

Okay, so now we're going to move this motion to a vote.

**Motion Passed**

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

9.1 Next General Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 LTA4.

#### **RESERVED BUSINESS**

None