

Proposer: Stuart McLuckie (2421526)

Seconder: Adam Petrie (2317071)

Date: 20/09/2017



SAVE OUR STUDENT UNION

GM Notes:

- That conversation surrounding last year's Officer Neutrality Motion was often hyperbolic and impressed questionable motivations upon its authors and supporters.
- Both the proposition and opposition of the motion agreed that the original draft was inadequate, creating ambiguity as to what areas of public and student life Union Officers had the right to comment or act upon.
- Though the amended motion passed with 123/149 (82%) votes, there were notable votes which took place beforehand.
The vote on a procedural motion, which was proposed at the beginning of the debate, was split by near half;
 - This concerned holding off an official vote on the night, as so the authors of the motion could cooperate with the Union to better express their grievances and reach constructive goals.
 - FOR PROCEDURAL MOTION: 59/144 (41%).
 - AGAINST PROCEDURAL MOTION: 80/144 (56%).
 - ABSTENTIONS: 5/144 (3%).
 - The final vote on the amended motion had the highest number of abstentions; 24/149 (16%), the procedural motion had the lowest; 5/144 (3%).
- The motion, as finally amended, was far removed from the original's core beliefs. The authors of the second amendment made no attempt to communicate or cooperate with the original authors.
- There was no attempt made to ascertain the beliefs held by the authors from those who impressed motivations upon them via social media.
- That the following points made by the original motion are still relevant to the discussion of this motion:
 - That the Union was mandated, by official policy, to give the *Stirling University CND Society* official public support, a status which is not shared with other societies of its kind.
 - Trident and Nuclear Disarmament 2013;
"To support the new Student CND group at the university"
 - That this culminated in the previous Union President making an official statement about a legal investigation on a Stirling CND protest which occurred during his tenure;
 - "Stirling Student's Union wholeheartedly supports the society and the students involved in this action"

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- *“We continue to support CND in their ongoing efforts to rid Scotland and the United Kingdom of the Trident nuclear missile deterrent.”*
- *“Therefore, we call on Police Scotland to drop the charges against those involved in yesterdays actions... and will continue to support our CND society and our activists in any future actions.”*

GM Believes:

- That a well-drafted motion, pertaining to the level of appropriate political involvement the Union and its Officers should make, needs to be debated in order to provide proper closure to this issue.
- That a Students' Association which adopts a non-partisan approach to political issues outside of direct student interests, as well as being reasonably open to intellectual diversity;
 - Increases the intellectual development and rigor of its members and allows them to reconcile differences in opinion with others.
 - Creates an overall atmosphere of mutual trust between the Association and its members, as well as healthy relationships between all political groups and individuals within the Association.
 - Allows the Association to better focus its time and resources to student related matters, which would strengthen campaigns for housing, equality and safety for its members.

GM Resolves:

1- That the policy statement below, be adopted;

“The University of Stirling Students' Union and its Officers shall adopt a policy of non-intervention, with regards to political issues which are not in the direct interests of the student population.

“Direct Student Interests” shall be defined by the content within the Union's Constitution, alongside its “Core Policy Areas”;

- *Safety Policy Statement*
- *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy*
- *Equal Opportunities Policy*
- *No Platforms Policy*
- *Zero Tolerance Policy*
- *‘Lapsed Policy’ Policy*
- *Safe Space Policy*
- *Environmental and Ethical Policy*
- *Volunteer Policy*

Any motions at a General Meeting which encourages the Union to endorse a particular stance, organisation or group, either within or out-with the Union, must show, with clear

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evidence and explanation, that they meet the above criteria. Motions such as these which do not meet the criteria, must not be considered fit for proposal."

2- That this Policy shall be referred to as the "*Union Political Participation Policy*".

3- To avoid confusion, the "*Union Officer Neutrality (Amended)*" Policy be renamed the "*Responsible Activism Policy*".

4- That the *Lapsed Policy* take the above policy statement into account when conducting another review.