

Stirling SU Student Council Agenda

Meeting 1, 2026/2027 Academic Year

Item	Description	Lead	Notes/Links
SC1.1	Welcome <i>How is everyone (Really?)</i>	Union President	
SC1.2	Election of Chair Election of Deputy Chair <i>For this first meeting, a Chair will need to be elected. The Union President will chair the meeting until this point, with the DRO overseeing the election</i>	Union President/DRO	
SC1.3	Updates <i>Relevant updates on items from previous meetings</i> 1.3.1 October Election Results <i>Announcement of results from the October Elections</i>	Chair DRO	
SC1.4	Reports <i>Reports from Sabbatical Officers and Volunteer Officers</i>	Officers	
SC1.5	New items for decision <i>Any new items from members</i> 1. Student Item One: Ethical Banking	Proposer	
SC1.6	Referred items <i>Items sent by other bodies (i.e. Equalities Forum, Council, etc) or to fill vacancies where appropriate (NUS Delegate, etc)</i>		

	1. Issues related to accommodation and student safety at Liberation Forum	Union President	
SC1.7	AOB <i>Non-agenda items that are still relevant</i>	Proposer	
SC1.8	Next meeting	Chair	

Appendix:

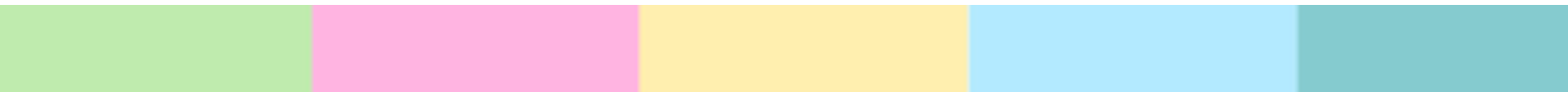
S.C 1.4: Reports

- Union President Report for Student Council 22/10/26
- Sports President Update – Student Council (August, September & Early October)
- Katie Parker Vice-President of Education Student Council Report – 12th October 2026
- Vice President Communities ‘26/27 Student Council Report (22/10/2026)

S.C 1.5: New items for decision

- Student Item 1: Ethical Banking

S.C 1.6: Issues related to accommodation and student safety at Liberation Forum



S.C 1.4: Reports

Union President Report for Student Council 22/10/26

Reclaim The Night

Through my Tackling Gender-Based Violence remit, I led the organisation of this year's Reclaim the Night march in Stirling. The event brought together 321 students, staff, and members of the local community to march through Stirling city centre, calling for safer streets for women and marginalised genders and an end to violence in our communities.

The march was delivered in partnership with Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre and Stirling and District Women's Aid, helping to raise awareness of the vital support services available across the region. It was particularly encouraging to see such strong support from student societies and sports clubs, many of which actively participated in fundraising and awareness-raising activities.

This work will continue throughout the year through policy reviews, campaigning activity, and targeted initiatives focused on raising awareness of spiking and wider gender-based violence issues.

EDI

Within my Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) remit, I have continued to work closely with the University to improve accessibility and inclusion across campus.

Key improvements have included the introduction of braille signage and tactile paving, alongside enhanced accessibility measures such as yellow safety strips on outdoor staircases. Accessible toilet signage has also been updated to improve clarity, incorporate braille, and display “Not Every Disability is Visible” messaging.

In collaboration with the University's Estates team, I have also advocated for improvements to campus lighting to enhance safety and accessibility. One example is the installation of new lighting on the pathway between the Airthrey Castle temporary UL bus stop and Alexander Court residences.

This semester also saw the first meeting of the Liberation Forum, a space dedicated to discussing issues affecting students from marginalised backgrounds and those who experience discrimination. Discussions focused on campus safety, accessibility, and accommodation-related concerns, generating valuable feedback that will inform future work.

Additionally, I coordinated the joint Students' Union and University presence at Stirling Pride, strengthening our commitment to visibility, inclusion, and allyship across the campus community.



Governance and Strategic Oversight

A significant part of my role has involved representing students in strategic decision-making across the University. During this period, I have contributed to a number of key governance groups and institutional projects, ensuring that the student voice is represented at the highest levels of decision-making.

Meetings attended include:

- AI Advisory Group
- Portfolio and Curriculum Transformation Project (Workstreams 1-24, Project Board, and Oversight Board)
- Student Information System (SIS) Project Board
- University Court
- QAA Review and Enhancement Activity
- Executive Oversight Board
- Trustee Board (x2)

Through this work, I have contributed to discussions on institutional strategy, curriculum development, digital transformation, quality assurance, and governance.

Black history Month

I have been working closely with university colleagues and the African and Caribbean Society to coordinate this year's Black History Month programme.

Together, we have developed a range of events, awareness-raising initiatives, and collaborative activities across the Forth Valley region to celebrate Black history, culture, and achievements while encouraging meaningful conversations within our community.

Further information about this year's programme is available on the Students' Union website: [Black History Month 2026](#).

Welcome Week

I supported the delivery of Welcome Week in September by organising and facilitating a range of events designed to help new and returning students settle into university life.

This work focused on creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, fostering a sense of belonging, and ensuring that students felt represented and supported from the start of their university journey.



International Students National Campaign

I have begun leading a national campaign alongside sabbatical officers from Heriot-Watt University, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Aberdeen, the University of the West of Scotland, and HISA.

The campaign seeks to address barriers experienced by international students by engaging with both institutions and UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). Through collective advocacy, we aim to improve access, reduce unnecessary obstacles, and ensure that international students are better supported throughout their studies in Scotland.



Sports President Update – Student Council (August, September & Early October)

My focus has been on supporting sports clubs, enhancing student engagement, improving club development opportunities, and strengthening partnerships across the University and wider community.

A significant priority has been preparing clubs for the start of the academic year. Alongside our annual affiliation process, I planned and delivered the Sports Bazaar, which welcomed over 2,800 students and provided clubs with a key opportunity to recruit new members and showcase their activities. I also delivered two days of committee inductions, equipping student leaders with the knowledge and resources needed to run their clubs effectively, while gathering feedback on how the Sports Union can continue to improve its support for clubs. In addition, I launched the President Pairs initiative to encourage collaboration and peer support between club presidents.

During Welcome Week, I supported the planning and delivery of both the Men's and Women's Rugby Varsity fixtures and attended a range of students union engagement activities, including Meet and Greets and Open Day events. I also hosted two Welcome Week pub quizzes, helping new and returning students connect with one another and engage with the students union.

Student wellbeing and safety have remained a key area of focus. I spoke at Reclaim the Night, encouraging students to challenge and call out gender-based violence within changing rooms, sporting environments, and wider student spaces. This messaging has also been promoted directly to sports clubs. Alongside this, I boosted awareness of the Students' Union's drink covers and drink testing kits to help tackle spiking concerns within sports clubs and societies.

I have also begun discussions with University of Stirling Sport and colleagues within the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport regarding the development of a collaborative concussion policy and reporting process. Looking ahead, I will also be working with Isadora (VP Comms) and Paramedic Society to improve first aid awareness and provide students with practical knowledge to respond appropriately in a range of situations.

Building partnerships has continued to be an important area of work. I attended the Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre Open Day on behalf of the Sabbatical Officer Team and have established a new collaboration with BRIG to support and promote their Sport Spotlight column, which is due to relaunch next month. I also worked with Cathy Gallagher to organise a keynote session with Paralympian Aaron Phipps and supported initiatives including the Women's Rugby breast cancer fundraiser.

As competitive sport returned, I worked closely with clubs to ensure as many student-athletes as possible were eligible to compete and represent the University, supporting compliance with league and competition requirements. I chaired my first Sports



Executive Committee meeting, where discussions included the future affiliation of Ice Hockey. I continue to work with key stakeholders to explore a sustainable pathway for the club's development. I have also continued to attend club and society events, including supporting the Stirling University Drama Society's upcoming Murder Mystery event.

Overall, the last three months have been centred around supporting club development, increasing participation opportunities, strengthening student safety initiatives, building meaningful partnerships, and ensuring students have the best possible experience through sport at the University of Stirling.



Katie Parker Vice-President of Education Student Council Report – 12th October 2026

Welcome Week Activities:

Welcome week was filled with many different events. I participated and welcomed new and returning students through various activities; meet and greets, faculty inductions, nighttime events and many more. It was great to welcome students back to campus!

Manifesto:

1. Assessment Feedback

Feedback Resources

Over the summer, I worked alongside Student Learning Services to develop a series of feedback resources for students including a feedback PowerPoint which outlines skills and support, alongside a quick referral slide. In our Faculty Officer training, we offered a session for students to feedback on the Canvas Student Learning Services page, leading to student informed changes.

Cover Sheet

Working with the Deputy Principal for Education, I have implemented a section on the Cover sheet which asks students what they specifically want feedback on in their assignments. This is to encourage students to reflect on their feedback and make it easier to build on feedback from previous assignments.

Scotland's Tertiary Enhancement Program (STEP) Transforming Assessment Policy and Practice

As a part of Scotland's Tertiary Enhancement Program, I sit as a student member on the Transforming Assessment Policy and Practice Project. In early October I attended a forum in Glasgow which was joined by sector leaders, key sector agencies and bodies in Higher Education to discuss assessment policy. I was invited to sit on a panel, where I shared the importance of inclusive assessment design, accessible reasonable adjustments, and the importance of useful assessment feedback.

2. Belonging

Curriculum Transformation Project

As an officer I currently sit on the Curriculum Transformation Project which reviews all undergrad programs, making sure that our curriculum is innovative, inclusive and progressive for students.

I have been working with the university on the Curriculum Transformation Project to lead a workshop for programme directors titled 'Social Belonging in the Curriculum: Staff and Student Perspectives'. This workshop will take place in early November, highlighting ways staff can foster belonging through curriculum and teaching practices. The research for this workshop has been informed by feedback from academic rep training, STEP projects, and staff findings.

3. Artificial Intelligence



Turnitin

Turnitin proposed an update to their user agreement which proposed that students work would be used to train AI models. This change has been delayed at the earliest until 2027/2028 academic year. However, the proposed change to protecting student data is concerning. Alongside our Open AI Campaign Officer (Will) and Union President (Ellie), a paper was taken to the university AI Advisory Committee. The university reassured us that they that they are committed to protecting student data and intellectual property.

I have also joined a national campaign on the issue, which we are currently in contact with Turnitin to set up a meeting to discuss this issue directly with themselves.

Alongside, I and all other Stirling Sabbs have signed an open letter which demands Turnitin to listen to students and protect student data. This has currently gathered over 80 signatures from sabbatical officers across the country.

4. Academic Representation

Academic Rep and Faculty Officer Training

I have been working alongside Lucy (student representation coordinator), to deliver academic Rep training and Faculty Officer training over the last couple of weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email on education.union@stir.ac.uk or on Instagram @stir_education



Vice President Communities '26/27

Student Council Report (22/10/2026)

This report covers what I've been working on since the semester started, the report is not necessarily in chronological order.

Belonging & Community

Welcome week was extremely busy but equally rewarding, taking part in the highlighted events as well as being at our welcome desk, societies fayre and sports bazar, support me towards my manifesto goals of building a stronger community that collaborates across different areas in our campus as well as building towards the aim that students know where to go for help before hitting a crisis point.

My priority during welcome week was to meet as many students, and parents, as possible to ensure they felt welcomed and ensure that they knew where to turn to if they ever need help. Here are some highlights:

Move-in Support: Upon their arrival on Thursday prior to welcome week, the SABBs came together to help the first-years move into halls. This was an amazing chance to speak to the students and their parents/guardians, by doing this I was able to sign post the students to socs/clubs that would fit their interests and how they could join, as well as a chance to show that the SU is here to help them.

Welcome Events: On the evening of their move in, Katie and I helped at the UV party by walking down with new students, face painting and helping them break the ice and make friends with others. I was also around early on at other events to welcome students. Through the week I was on the Union's Welcome Stall encouraging students to get involved with socs, to go to the Socs Fayre and to sign up to the Give It A Go sessions.

Societies Fayre: We had a really good Soc Fayre in the Atrium where over 62 socs promoted themselves to students. Seeing everyone and their stalls has been a highlight of my year so far!

Tour of Stirling: This was a guided tour through town with Harry and me. This was a big win for Harry and I as over 100 newcomers showed up and enjoyed the tour.

Apple Picking: The apple picking event was a great success, it was great to take part in this and be more involved with the sustainable initiatives that we have in our campus!

Meet & Greets: Those informal sessions worked really well and were a great chance to bring different communities of students together so they could meet each other as well as be there to take any questions about the university and the union. The numbers for

students attending were generally good but I have personally led the conversations about how we can make these better and more inclusive for future years.

Meet & Greets	2026	2025
First Years	67	47
Mature Students	22	35
Online Learners	0	N/A
Disabled Students	6	8
Commuter Students	12	N/A
College Transition Students	1	N/A
Student Parents	1	1
LGBTQ+ Students	26	9
International Students	23	15
Estranged & Care Experience Students	1	2
Total	159	117

Community & Equality

My priority in this area is to make sure every student feels included, represented and safe at Stirling, as well as bridge the gap between socs and clubs so that communities connect rather than sit side by side. It is part of my manifesto aim of creating stronger links for different student groups and inclusive events and representation.

Macrobert Arts Centre: I have driven conversations with the Director, and the Head of Participation at the Macrobert Arts Centre to explore ways that more students, particularly societies can use the spaces at the Macrobert. I invited the Director to Societies Fayre to walk round and speak with societies and get their thoughts and ideas – FAQ page is being put together and will cover timescales, process and who to contact. I am also working on creating an advisory group of students to give regular ideas and feedback to how students can use the Macrobert for more events and activities.

LGBTQ+ Stirling Parade: Attended the LGBTQ+ parade alongside the SABBs and other SU staff. Promoted the event through the communities Instagram and encouraged societies to join. This was a great chance to show LGBTQ+ students support.

EHRC Statement: I was directly involved with the SABBs response to the updated EHRC guidelines. My aim has been that every student feels safe, respected and welcome at Stirling.

Reclaim the Night: I helped the Union President prepare for this event by giving support on advertisement/posters and encouraging student groups to take part in this event.

Increasing Society Visibility: I want every society to get equal promotion and recognition; I've been using the VPC Instagram to engage with the societies and reshare their events and achievement when possible. I'm also working on a social media mini-series where I join a society's session and showcase what they do, giving a clear and



friendly picture of what's on offer and how to join. If you'd like me to come along/support to your soc meeting/event/show, just ask!

Supporting EGMs and Dormant Societies: Over the beginning of the semester, I have supported societies such as Air3Radio and DSAS with their EGMs. As well as helped advise and encouraged societies such as the Nordic Society, Wine Society, Coppafeel, DKMS, etc. With the process of setting up those societies and recruiting a committee and members.

Stirling Fund: I have been working with other sabbs to meet with the University to get better guidance and support for student groups wanting to apply for the Stirling Fund. Applications are open now and we are working on getting the support session booked in for Friday the 23rd of October. The applications close on the 1st of November.

Wellbeing

CPR Sessions: I have been working with the Paramedic Society to run CPR sessions for other societies and student groups. Practical training like this gives students confidence in an emergency and helps committees look after their members. I am also exploring wider first aid training for committee members in the future.

Movember: I have been supporting this year's Movember ambassadors with promotion around campus, recruiting liaisons, planning, fundraising ideas, and event support. Student-led campaigns like this help normalise conversations about mental health, and I want to give ambassadors the backing they need to make an impact.

Stirling Bus/UL: Affordable, reliable transport is one of my key campaign priorities, because the cost and reliability of buses affects whether students can take part in activities. I have been working hard over the summer in raising this to the University and ensuring they support us in challenging the service that bus users receive. I have started gathering feedback from students on their experience, using an online survey that has been shared across student groups. So far, I have had 39 responses and the gathered feedback will be shared with the McGill's team to collectively work on what they can do to improve the student experience with the UL – the survey is open until reading week (26th of October).

I am also working with other sabbs around the country through NUS to build a national bus campaign for students arguing for free transport.

Item 1:

Name: Erin Smith

Student Email: ers00109@students.stir.ac.uk

Please summarise the item you would like a decision on.

The Union and University must ensure that they are not supporting fossil fuel expansion and the global arms trade by procuring banking services from banks that not finance these areas

What is the issue you'd like to discussed?

The Union must ensure its banking relationships and financial activities are carried out by ethical banks and must lobby the university to do the same.

For the purpose of this motion an ethical bank is a bank that does not insure or finance fossil fuel projects or the global arms trade.

In order to comply with the purpose of this Policy, the Union will engage with students, the university and its own internal operations through the following activities:

Action 1: Lobbying the university to transition to an ethical bank

The Union will:

- a) Advocate for the university to transition its banking arrangements to an ethical bank by engaging relevant governance and operational bodies, including but not limited to the Finance Committee.
- b) Ensure that Sabbatical Officers lead engagement with the University on this matter as a minimum requirement.
- c) Require Sabbatical Officers to provide updates to the student community at each student council.
- d) Ensure coordination between Sabbatical Officers and the students leading the Students Banking for Sustainability campaign.

Action 2: Reforming Union's Finance activities

The Union will:

- a) Work towards transitioning all Union banking arrangements to ethical banks as existing contracts lapse and procurement processes are undertaken.
- b) Ensure that all future banking procurement, including but not limited to current accounts, deposit accounts and lending services, is undertaken with ethical banks wherever a suitable provider is available.
- c) Publicly support the Students Banking for Sustainability (SB4S) campaign through official Union communication channels, including but not limited to LinkedIn, Instagram, and the Union website.
- d) Publish updates on any changes to the Union's banking arrangements through its communication channels, including but not limited to LinkedIn, Instagram,



and the Union website, ensuring transparency and informing the student community of progress.

- e) Where legally permissible and consistent with its fiduciary duties, the Union will incorporate into its Treasury Policy a requirement not to establish or maintain financial relationships with banks that finance fossil fuel expansion where a ethical banking alternative is readily available and would not materially disadvantage the Union's financial interests, operational requirements, or charitable objectives.

Policy Notes:

- Note 1: For a comprehensive list of green banks and building societies identified by the UK Higher Education Banking Coalition, please refer to the webpage below.

University of Cambridge. (2026). UK universities identify banks and building societies that do not support fossil fuel expansion. Available at:

<https://www.finance.admin.cam.ac.uk/about/banking-engagement-forum/uk-universities-identify-banks-and-building-societies-do-not>

- Note 2: For a comprehensive list of banks that finance fossil fuel expansion, please refer to the Banking on Climate Chaos 2026 report, particularly pages 10–13.

Banking on Climate Chaos. (2026). Banking on Climate Chaos: Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2026. Available at:

<https://www.bankingonclimatechaos.org/?bank=JPMorgan%20Chase#fulldata-panel>

If Council agrees, I would like the Students' Union to...

- Lobby an external body (i.e. the University, the Scottish/UK Government, etc) on the issue
- Change the Students' Union activity in a particular area
- Issue a public statement in support or opposition of the issue
- Start an Action Group on the issue

By submitting this item, I understand that I will need to attend Council to introduce this item and take part in the discussion.

I would like someone else to do this: Connie Porter cop00070@students.stir.ac.uk



Stirling SU Student Council

Meeting 1, 2026/2027 Academic Year

Item SC1.1.6

Issues Related to Student Safety at Liberation Forum

Introduction

This paper has been developed in response to feedback and discussion at the first meeting of Liberation Forum, held on 30 September 2026. During the meeting, students raised concerns regarding personal safety, experiences of discrimination, and the environment within and around university accommodation.

The issues identified have implications for student wellbeing, inclusion, and the overall student experience. This paper is presented to Student Council for discussion and consideration

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Outline key concerns raised by members of Liberation Forum.
- Provide context regarding reported issues affecting students.
- Enable discussion at Student Council.
- Seek recommendations and actions to improve student safety and support.

Campus Safety

Students have reported a decreased sense of safety on campus during the evening and at night, particularly in and around student accommodation.

Concerns relate to reports of groups of high school-aged children entering or congregating within accommodation areas. Students have described experiences including intimidating behaviour, threatening language, antisocial conduct, and vandalism. Students have reported increased anxiety when travelling to and from accommodation after dark.

The University has begun discussions with neighbouring secondary schools following reports of negative behaviour affecting the campus community.



Transphobic Behaviour

Members of Liberation Forum also raised concerns regarding reports of transphobic harassment experienced by students both within Stirling city centre and, in some cases, on campus.

Students reported instances involving hostile, threatening, and discriminatory language directed towards transgender individuals. Some of these incidents constitute as hate crimes and can have a significant impact on students' wellbeing, participation in university life, and sense of safety.

Reports suggest that incidents have again involved high school-aged individuals. However, regardless of the source, we'd like to emphasise the importance of ensuring that transgender students feel safe, supported, and confident in accessing reporting and support mechanisms.

Paper Author: Ellie Hammond (Union President)

Date: 13/10/2026