

General Meeting

1st February
5-7pm

C.LTW1 / MS TEAMS

Agenda

- **Welcome and Attendance**
 - Members Present
 - Union President, Leen Ali (LA)
 - Sports Union President, Murray Bushell (MB)
 - Vice President Communities, Zoe Crosher (ZC)
 - Vice President Education, Katie Gethings (KG)
 - Equalities Volunteer Officer (LGBT+), Joe Roach
 - Housing Volunteer Officer, Justine Pedussel
 - Parents and Carers Volunteer Officer, Nicola Foley
 - Engagement Volunteer Officer, Zoja Michelle Repovs
 - In Attendance
 - 7 Faculty Officers
 - 81 Ordinary Members
 - 4 Staff Support
- **Minutes Ratification**
 - Minutes ratified by LA. No objections.
- **Challenges to Order Paper**
 - No challenges to order.
- **Dates to Note**
 - LGBT History Month – February
 - Sports Zone – 6th February 2024
 - Academic Rep Conference – 7th and 14th February 2024
 - Society Ball Tickets on Sale – 8th February 2024
 - Education Zone – 8th February 2024
 - International Festival of Culture – 12th and 13th February 2024
 - StirPride – 19th to 23rd February 2024
 - Equalities Zone – 21st February 2024
 - NUS Rally for our Education – 21st February 2024
 - Election Voting Period – 27th to 29th February 2024
 - Sports Union Varsity – 27th March 2024
- **Elections & Resignations**
 - [Spring Elections](#)
 - Nominations Close: 12th February, 10am
 - Campaigning Launch: 20th February, 10am
 - Voting Opens: 27th February, 10am
 - Voting Closes: 29th February, 5pm
 - Results Announced: 1st March, 12-1pm

- Election Committee
 - Kellie Parker was elected.
- **Reports (The Sabbatical Officer reports can be reviewed in [Paper A of the Agenda](#))**
 - Union President
 - Student asked about the elections for the BAME volunteer positions. LA responds saying that this position is vacant and they can get elected through the Equalities Zone in March and offered to talk more about it with the student.
 - Sports Union President
 - Student spoke about possible summer sports opportunities and if the sports teams can continue to run over the summer period. MB responds saying that they could do more, and these are conversations to be had with the Sports Centre and Be Connected. MB then says that this is a job for the next Sports President.
 - Vice President Communities
 - Student asked about why they could not be involved in the Scottish Mental Health First Aid Training. ZC explains that the course was only open to Societies due to limited places.
 - Vice President Education
 - Student recommends including public speaking training, interview skills and leadership skills to be included in the LifeSkills workshop. KG says that interview prep has been getting developed and should be included soon.
- **Motions**
 - COVID 19 Justice and Equity Motion ([Paper B](#))
 - Motion Proposer Introduction
 - IR: the reason for this motion is to ensure that students have access to masks and cleaner air. This is to reduce long COVID within the students and the users of the building. I believe that this is important.
 - Clarifying Questions
 - OM: How much would the air purifier costs? The Union is already struggling with their budget so would this take away from other expenditures or would the union even be able to afford it?
 - IR: I think my main point would be the collective health outweighs the cost. I couldn't say how much this would cost as I am not an expert on the topic.
 - OM: Is the motion asking for the union to provide masks? Because even hospitals do not do this anymore?
 - LA: Yes, it is.
 - Speeches For and Against the Motion
 - No speeches made for the motion.
 - OM (speaking against): I am speaking against how broad the motion is and a lack of sustainable cash flow within the union. Our union is already struggling to keep its assets with the closing of the bar. We don't need to provide masks for all students as they are already struggling to survive.

- Motion Summation
 - IR says an environment where COVID is run rampant is dangerous and not sustainable to not tackle or address the issue. This has had incurable results on people's health, especially with those suffering from long COVID.

MOTION PASSED (54.5% IN FAVOUR)

- Fossil Fuel Careers ([Paper C](#))
 - Motion Proposer Introduction
 - EQS: We are proposing this motion as part of our divestment campaign. We ask the union to support the Fossil Fuel Careers initiative. We ask the careers service to not make any new agreements with fossil fuel companies and we also ask that they do not promote jobs in these companies at events.
 - Clarifying Questions
 - OM: Could you clarify how they are unethical?
 - EQS: There are transitional minerals that are being mined in unethical ways when there is ethical methods to do this. These companies also displace people for building their projects for example, pipelines.
 - OM: Since this is Stirling University, which is not the biggest university and therefore would not have a large impact on these companies, would this motion be on small fossil fuel companies or the bigger competitors? Is this too big for the university and union to tackle?
 - EQS: We are looking to not stop for fossil fuel companies. We are only asking the university to not promote these jobs and invite them to career events. Not stopping people from getting these jobs.
 - Speeches For and Against the Motion
 - OM (For): It would be unthinkable to not put this motion forward. Given the nature of fossil fuel companies this can only be a good step.
 - No speeches were made against the motion.
 - Motion Summation
 - EQS: We just want to acknowledge the careers service have a broad approach to sustainability but we want this to be in policy as well.

MOTION PASSED (85.7% IN FAVOUR)

- NUS UK Conference Policy Submission – Solidarity with the People of Palestine and Preserving the Student Movement ([Paper D](#))
 - Motion Proposer Introduction
 - LL: To stop the censorship of Palestine supporters. Many universities will not support these students and what they have to say.
 - Clarifying Questions

- OM: Would it just be a statement?
- LL: It is a statement from NUS and support for students who feels censored.
- Speeches For and Against the Motion
 - OM (For): This motion is necessary for university students to stand up for crimes being committed in the middle east.
 - No speeches were made against the motion.
- Motion Summation
 - LL: I would like to clarify that if this gets passed then this will get sent to the NUS conference which will come into effect in all Unions under the NUS.

MOTION PASSED (94.1% IN FAVOUR)

- NUS Scotland Conference Policy Submission – Support for International Students ([Paper E](#))
 - Motion Proposer Introduction
 - No speech is made.
 - Clarifying Questions
 - No questions presented.
 - Speeches For and Against the Motion
 - OM (For): Essentially this motion will reduce pressure for students in housing and cost of living. It is quite short and will also be sent to the NUS Scotland Conference.
 - No speeches were made against the motion.
 - Motion Summation
 - No Speeches made.

MOTION PASSED (96.1% IN FAVOUR)

- **Any Other Business**
 - OM asked about the motion procedure. LA responded by clarifying that they had already moved on to the next motion when questions were asked following the summation, and advised OM to come and speak with the Chair following the meeting.
 - OM highlighted that the Scottish Government is cutting funding for Education, and NUS have organised a rally outside the Scottish Government building on the 21st of February.
- Date of Next Meeting: 5-7pm, 14th March 2024
 - Motion Deadline: 10am, 7th March 2024
 - Motion Amendment Deadline: 10am, 12th March 2024
- Date of Annual General Meeting: 14th March 2024 (*immediately following the General Meeting*)