

General Meeting

30th November
5-7pm

C.LTA5 / MS TEAMS

Minutes

- **Welcome**
- **In 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
 - International Volunteer Officer, Khaliun Batbayar
 - Care Experienced Students Volunteer Officer, Yewande Salami
 - In Attendance
 - 6 Faculty Officers
 - 70 Ordinary Members
 - 3 Staff Support
- **Minutes Ratification**
 - Minutes ratified by LA. No objections.
- **Challenges to Order Paper**
 - No challenges to order.
- **Dates to Note**
 - Imagine a Stirling with GBV: 4th December
 - Festive Academic Rep Social: 5th December 2023
 - Reclaim the Night Banner Making in Atrium: 6th December 2023
 - Emily Test Awareness Session: 7th December 2023
 - Reclaim the Night March around Campus: 7th December
 - Holiday Dinner on Campus: 24th December 2023
 - University of Stirling International/Intercultural Festival: 29th and 30th January 2024
 - January Welcome Week: 21st January- 26th January 2024
 - Semester Two Teaching Starts: 22nd January 2024
- **Elections & Resignations**
 - N/A
- **Reports (The Sabbatical Officer reports can be reviewed in [Paper A](#) of the Agenda)**
 - Union President
 - Student spoke about the restructuring of the Equalities Zone and not just having underrepresented students included. LA responded how they are wanting to look into this to see what they can do about this as initially it was

meant to be a safe space for underrepresented students. Says that this is still in the works and has been noted.

- Sports Union President
 - Student spoke about sports being brought up in the cost-of-living talk in the first General Meeting. Asked to talk about the developments of this. MB spoke about how this is not just a Stirling-specific one but Scottish-wide. Said that there is going to be a meeting about this tomorrow, currently looking at what they can do. Spoke about how a survey could be good at looking at how the cost of living is impacting involvement in sports. Hoping to have a survey out in January and an update by July.
 - Student spoke about how it is incredible the efforts the union has put towards Movember and mentioned how it is important that the same support is given to other fundraising opportunities such as breast cancer awareness. MB says that they don't know why the engagement for Movember is so big and that if they knew the reason they could branch out to other fundraising. Union is happy to support anything, MB suggests getting certain clubs to get behind to support. Acknowledges more can be done.
- Vice President Communities
 - Student asked about when meeting with McGills if the Better Busses Campaign was involved. ZC spoke about how they did try to get them to come along to the meeting but due to timings, the University wasn't able to. ZC is trying to organise this but does admit it has fallen off their radar, but they will be trying to pick this up in the next week or so.
- Vice President Education
 - Student mentioned how they would have liked to have attended the life skills workshop, however, it was poor timing due to exams, etc. Suggested mid-May or February for this as it could be beneficial for when people are getting ready to leave University. KG speaks on how the timing was due to trying to navigate timing, materials and schedules. Says how in future it should be easier to run these sessions at more ideal times as the materials are now in place.
- **Motions**
 - Update to Clubs & Societies (Schedule 8) ([Paper B](#) and [Appendix 1](#))
 - Motion Proposer Introduction
 - ZC explains how this is to update Schedule 8 which is the Clubs and Societies Schedule Article 2.6 with one revision. Aims to revise the approval process for adding new society committee members to make it easier to remove any unnecessary bureaucratic processes. Previously it was a vote within the society to add a new committee member which would then be sent to ZC to approve. This revision would mean they just have to vote on it as a society, it removes unnecessary administrative work for ZC and allows societies more freedom.
 - Clarifying Questions
 - No clarifying questions.
 - Speeches For and Against the Motion
 - No speeches made either for or against the motion.

- Motion Summation
 - ZC says how this will mean that societies will no longer have to wait for them to add a new committee member.

MOTION PASSED (97.3% IN FAVOUR)

- University Divestment from the Border Regime – Students’ Union Support ([Paper C](#))
 - Motion Proposer Introduction
 - Agnese Verrone (AV) explains how the Global Justice Society have put through this motion for the Union to lobby the University to divest from border industries. Speaks on how these industries are profiting from traumatic immigration processes and they are supporting people being in detention where there are high suicide rates and human rights are being abused. They do not want the University to ever be able to invest in these kinds of industries and want the University to put borders industries on the divestment policies. So far, they have been able to make the University to divest directly and indirectly for from fossil fuels.
 - Clarifying Questions
 - Student has asked what previous work has been done on divestment in relation to fossil fuels. Another student answered the question for AV. They say how there was a motion passed for the University to divest indirectly from fossil fuels as the University has said they already divested directly. States how there has been success before, and the Union is needed to have success again.
 - Speeches For and Against the Motion
 - ZC speaks in favour. Explains how they have done a lot of work with Global Justice as had their predecessor. Says it is a worthwhile topic to understand and the more people behind the motion the better.
 - No speeches were made against the motion.
 - Motion Summation
 - AV says how it has managed to get the University to divest directly and indirectly from fossil fuels and that it would be a good time to start this process for divesting from border industries as the University is currently hiring a new divestment manager.

MOTION PASSED (94.8% IN FAVOUR)

- Stirling Students’ Union BDS ([Paper D](#))
 - Motion Proposer Introduction
 - Luna Larkin (LL) speaks on how there is an ongoing genocide in Palestine. Explains how as a Union participating in BDS efforts and advocating for free Palestine is the best we can do to help.
 - Clarifying Questions
 - No clarifying questions.
 - Speeches For and Against the Motion
 - Student speaks in favour of motion and says how they are proud of their Jewish heritage. They explain how the actions of Israel have no reflection on the Jewish religion. They speak on the

70 years of occupation. States we have a chance to do something small and how we fundamentally need to take a stand.

- No speeches were made against the motion.
- Motion Summation
 - LL summarises by saying how this motion will be a divestment from any Israeli arms companies or tech companies that the Union currently holds ties with and a severing of commercial relations in general. And overall, a boycott on Israeli goods, fruits and vegetables, etc.

MOTION PASSED (98.6% IN FAVOUR)

- **Any Other Business**
 - Student asked if 60 people were needed to vote on the motions. LA explains that this is the case and explains quoracy.
 - ZC follows on from what KG said earlier on Elections. Explains that they will not be re-running and that if anyone is considering running for any of the Sabbatical positions to get in touch with them and that their details are on the website. Also explains that the website will have details on how to nominate oneself or nominate a friend once the nominations open on the 11th of December.
- **Date of Next Meeting: 5-7pm, 1st February 2024**
 - Motion Deadline: 10am, 25th January 2024
 - Motion Amendment Deadline: 10am, 30th January 2024