

# Student Council

2nd February  
5-6pm

C2A9

## **Student Council Agenda (5pm onwards)**

- Pre-meeting: Introduction about the semester and the process
- Election of Chair of Student Council
- Recording Attendance and Apologies
- Conflicts of Interest
- Election of Deputy Chair
- Officer Reports and Accountability for meetings of Student Council (Paper A)
- Items for Discussion & Decisions
  - Items Submitted
    - Item 1: PGR action group
    - Review of Full-time Officer report structure
- Any Other Business (AOB)
- Date of Next Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 – 5pm

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Union President Report for Student Council .....          | 1  |
| Sports Union President Report for Student Council.....    | 4  |
| Vice President Education Report- January 2026 .....       | 5  |
| Vice President Communities Student Council Report 1 ..... | 7  |
| Item 1.....   | 10 |

# Union President Report for Student Council

## **Scottish Elections Campaign**

This campaign is centred around the upcoming Holyrood elections with the aim of pushing voter registration and students to vote, as well as ensuring that student interests are included in party manifestos.

Thus far, we have been setting up the social media: scottish\_elections\_campaign (Instagram) and are in the middle of planning how we'll ensure that our students are informed of the various political parties and their manifestos. We are also looking at past voting on major bills that have affected students or that we have found are important to students.

## **Save Our Scottish Education (SOSE) Campaign**

Tertiary Education Bill has passed through Scottish Parliament which means that there will be **more accountability** from institutions and stronger student voice duties; **greater focus on skills and employability**, potentially influencing course offerings; **improved protections**, including antigenderbasedviolence measures and transparency rules; **expanded options** through designated private providers; **greater financial oversight** to ensure stability of universities and colleges.

There is more work to be done and that is being done but with a current focus on joining up with the Scottish Elections Campaign to ensure that education and funding are a priority for political parties.

## **Equality Zone**

We had our Equality Zone on the 29<sup>th</sup> and I am happy to provide an update on the meeting at the council meeting.

Since the General Meeting, upon request of some lecturers, I have started a mailing list for EDI related information including our events, updates/changes, and things that they should be aware of (based on what students are telling us or what we know is happening). I have also been involved in and providing feedback on the University's updated EDI policy which will now go through committees to be approved.

For welcome week, we organised the Meet & Greets for LGBTQ+ students, Disabled Students, International Students, Student Parents, Mature Students, Estranged & Care-experienced students, which all received a good amount of engagement.

A few wins have been that there is now a flashing lights warning sign when collecting laptop from lockers and a reserved sign for lower desks in campus central near SUP. And the bus timetabling screens are in the process of being installed in Pathfoot.

We are working with societies to prepare events for LGBTQ+ History Month and Women's History Month.

### **Harm Reduction**

We applied for and received funding to continue with our harm reduction initiatives. This has enabled us to order more anti-spiking tests which have been provided to societies, and we will be ordering more drug purity testing kits. At the time of this meeting, we will have completed our recruitment process for a harm reduction intern.

### **University**

Ellie and I spoke at the University's Welcome session during Welcome Week to welcome new students.

We attended the rally before Court in December and put out a statement about attending the rally before Court. We will have put out an update on what we have done in terms of what was mandated of us in the motion "students against staff cuts". The Vice Chancellor came to speak to students at the rally – certainly a first since I've been a student.

I'm sure you will have seen the Vice Chancellor and Principal's announcement that he will be retiring. I have been informed that recruitment for that role has already begun and assured that there will be student representation throughout the entire process.

I have been attending the Student Information Systems Executive Board which is an oversight board for the implementation of the new student information system. The system is projected to be fully implemented by August 2027.

I also attend the Curriculum Transformation Group which has been working on an overarching curriculum structure and we are looking for participants to join the student focus group where this will be presented and feedback requested.

And finally, we are just beginning rent negotiations with the university.

### **Other**

Ellie and I organised a Palestine Solidarity Open Meeting for the 29<sup>th</sup> of January and I am happy to provide an update at the council meeting.

# Sports Union President Report for Student Council

As Sports President, I look after all our 56 Sports Clubs, and we currently have 2546 members.

In terms of plans for semester two (until April):

- A successful January Sports Bazaar with 202 attendees and 186 sign ups to GIAGs
- The remaining add-victor workshops for the academic year are available through their partnership with BUCS, sign-ups will be available on our LinkTree linked to @stirlingsportsunion Instagram.
- StirScale had 35/56 clubs ranked on the scale after its second year, an improvement of an increase of 10 clubs compared to 2024. Based on the evidence submissions, details are being tweaked on the guide and hopefully it will continue to see an increase in engagement for 2026.
- Breaking barriers in disability sport project in collaboration with the Scottish Sport Sabbatical Officers (timeline and objective TBC)
- Working on planning a wheelchair basketball GIAG/tournament
- Looking at establishing a kit bank of SU clothing from our previous contracts (e.g. Under Armour, Nike etc.) for Volunteer Zambia
- Still planning on developing a career resource – the aim is how has being on a club committee contributed to their current career path
- Final preparation is underway for our annual club photos day with TakeThat photos on the 25<sup>th</sup> March
- Sports Ball 2026 – details on this year's event are now live alongside nominations being open
- Performance development programme
- Planning is underway to develop our second Alumni Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April

You can contact me at [sports.union@stir.ac.uk](mailto:sports.union@stir.ac.uk). Please also follow us on Instagram, @stirlingsportsunion, to keep up to date with the Sports Union!

# Vice President Education Report- January 2026

## **Artificial Intelligence**

The University Artificial Intelligence Advisory Group (AIAG) are currently undertaking a review of existing policies of the artificial intelligence guide for both students and staff for AI usage at the university of Stirling. I am working with Ellie (VP Communities) alongside academic staffs on this review. As soon as we're done finalising the updated guide, I will be able to signpost these to students and able to receive any feedback if there's any. In addition, the AI motion that was submitted by the AI student committee has been approved which is to ensure the union work alongside the university to ensure AI literacy, training, and support for both staff and students.

## **Welcome Week Activities**

The January welcome week was filled with series of event from the meets and greets, quiz night, pizza & board games and lots more for our new students. I participated and welcomed both new and returning students at the welcome fayre and various activities organised by the union. We had decent numbers of attendance and great engagements.

## **Final Year Festival- February**

I have been working with the university to organise final year festival week to celebrate students and highlight the supports available to students. I reached out to final year academic reps to ensure they're carried along in the planning, and I've also received feedback on events they're looking out for. The event is scheduled to take place during the week commencing 16 February 2026 with a Final-Year Hub running on 18 and 19 February.

## **Uniforce Employability Programme Award Ceremony**

I have been coordinating the uniforce programme involving over 50 students alongside presidents from four other institutions (Edinburgh Napier University, Glasgow Caledonian University, the University of the West of Scotland, and Robert Gordon University), which is aimed to enhance student employability by engaging participants with real-world challenges centred around economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

The 8-weeks programme is rounding off with an award ceremony on Friday, 30 January 2026 providing an opportunity to recognise the hard work, collaboration, and achievements of the participating students with four students representing Stirling.

The programme has been a positive experience for students and partners involved, supporting skills development, cross-institutional collaboration, and engagement with sustainability-focused projects.

If you have any questions or enquiries, please contact me via email on [education.union@stir.ac.uk](mailto:education.union@stir.ac.uk) or on Instagram stir\_education

# Vice President Communities Student Council Report 1

Here's what I've been working on as we enter our Spring Semester 2026.

## **GBV**

After the last Students' Union General Meeting, I have worked with SUDS to create and distribute drink spiking test packs to all Society and Sport Club committees. These include drink spiking test strips, to help keep our students safe whilst on nights out. I have begun collating data for an annual student GBV report. This data includes the number of students who have completed consent and GBV training as part of their matriculation process into the University of Stirling, as well as the number of anonymous GBV reports made by students. The '*Don't Be a Bystander*' and '*Consent Matters*' modules are now fully imbedded into all new students' matriculation process. In collaboration with a few of our incredible societies, we ran a donation drive for Stirling & District's Women's Aid, successfully pulling together and donating over 40 boxes full of self-care and essential items. I had the opportunity to attend ASIST suicide prevention training through the Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre, which will allow me to be more educated in my approach to GBV campaigning on our campus. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind students of the anonymous reporting tool and the support available through the University's Report and Support website. I co-ordinated and ran the Students' Union and University approach to 16 Days of Activism, which was a great success. In collaboration with the FEM society, I facilitated an Emily Test workshop, focussing on how the institution can better support students who are in dangerous situations. I worked with White Ribbon Scotland to run a train station takeover of Stirling Train Station, encouraging the public to look out for the signs of GBV and harassment, and to take action and sign the pledge. I supported the Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre open afternoon, highlighting to our students the support which is available to them.

## **Sustainability**

At Welcome Week last week, I supported our Sustainability Fayre, where we saw clothes, books, and homeware items advertised in the atrium as a cheaper alternative for students and to encourage the culture of a circular economy on our campus and within our Green & Blue Space. I have been working with the university sustainability team to organise the upcoming Green Week in March, where we will see a highlight on

active travel, campus biodiversity, and a circular economy. I lobbied the Student's Union to officially sign to endorse the creation of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and have proposed this to the University also. This is internally progressing. I have recently joined the Universities' A.I advisory group, with the purpose of including guidance for students and staff which includes information on the ethical and environmental impacts of using generative AI. The Campus Biodiversity Strategy has now closed for comment, and we have begun to reflect on feedback given, before drafting our final strategy plan. I was recently part of the interview process and panel to hire a new Community Food Initiative Intern. They will support the longevity of our CFI project, which provides free food for students, and significantly reduces food waste in Stirling. During Welcome Week, I facilitated a Climate Change Plan Consultation feedback session for the Scottish Government, encouraging students to give their voices on Climate Change Policies. I have organised a Sustainability Open Meeting, which will be held on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> of January at 5pm in Cottrell LTB4. This is students' chance to ask the University sustainability team directly about sustainability initiatives on campus. I chaired our Students' Union Sustainability Committee, where we began working towards completing our Green Impact award accreditation.

## **Equality and Accessibility**

The University has officially signed off on a project to get braille added to campus signage. This is the first step in the wider Tactile Paving campaign, which was a key part of my Vice President of Communities manifesto. I also organised an upcoming Palestine Open Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, which gives students the opportunity to get involved with campaigns, and direct us as Sabbatical Officers on the work we are doing. As part of my ongoing work with Student Support Services, I facilitated a meeting and interview between our Director of Student Support and Brig, our student newspaper, to further increase the accountability of the level of support which is available to Stirling students. I have been working with the University events team to organise a series of events for LGBTQ+ history month, including having a Pride flag raised outside Pathfoot during February, face paint and rainbow cake stalls, and educational sessions. Our LGBTQ+ drop-in sessions continued to be a success last semester, and into this January Welcome Week.

## **Housing**

I have been regularly attending Accommodation Prioritisation and Rent Review meetings with the University, consistently speaking for better accommodation situations for students. I am planning a Housing Event for mid-February, targeted at providing information for students renting privately for the first time. The Students'

Union has partnered with Marks Out of Tenancy, or MOOT. Think of ‘Rate Your Teacher’ but for landlords. This platform encourages students to leave reviews about location, properties, or landlords, allowing other students to have a more informed renting experience.

## **Welcome Week**

Our January Welcome Week was a great success! I hosted a Murder Mystery evening, and, of course, Horrible Histories Karaoke, which was an amazing event! We held regular Meet and Greet sessions throughout the week, helping students to build likeminded communities. I also spoke at induction sessions for PGT and Into students, signposting them to all Stirling has to offer.

## **Societies**

I have been working hard organising our upcoming SU Awards Evening. We also had a very successful Societies Fayre during Welcome Week, where our incredible societies showcased all that they had to offer. I have been working on updating our society schedules, with a focus on society constitutions, starter packs, and streamlining society welfare support, to give the autonomy back to our Presidents and other committee members. After running into difficulty with our Creative Cottage sustaining water damage from a burst pipe, I have been working closely with misplaced societies to ensure their events can go ahead as planned. I am back to working on our society common room also. I have been working with the University Deputy Principles to build support between our academic societies and their respective departments. I have been collaborating with several societies and sports clubs to launch a campaign with SupportED, a Scottish eating disorder charity, to ensure that our students have access to the support and resources that they need whilst at university. Societies and Sports Clubs recently received CPR training from our very own Paramedic Society, and I couldn’t be prouder of the work that they are doing. Societies also recently received Sensory Awareness Training, delivered by the Forth Valley Sensory Centre, to educate committee members on how to make their meetings more accessible to blind and/or deaf students.

## Item 1

**Name: Ashley Willis**

**Student Email: [a.n.willis@stir.ac.uk](mailto:a.n.willis@stir.ac.uk)**

**Please give a brief outline of the issue you'd like raised at Student Council**

We would like to propose the creation of a PGR Network/Action Group to support PGRs with concerns related to studies, opportunities, and current university changes.

**How would you describe this issue?**

I'd like the SU to aid in the formation of the new group; I'd like the SU to lobby on this issue;

**Resolves (what you expect to happen if this is passed)**

We expect a new group to be formed that focuses on the specific problems that PGR students face. These problems differ from other levels of study and need increased PGR voice. This group would be chaired by the PGR faculty officers.

**Believes (why you think this matters to students)**

PGR experiences are highly individualised. Current changes in the university including faculty restructures, a voluntary severance scheme (VSS), and lack of teaching opportunities due to budget constraints are just some of the concerns directly impacting research students. This new network/action group would help to bring PGRs together and strengthen student voice. The group would also help to enact positive change with the support of the Student Union.

**Notes (anything else you think is important to note)**

Many current concerns mentioned also directly impact staff workloads, faculty budgets, and overall student experience.

(For informational purposes) The link below is to the survey current PGR faculty officers are working on in regards to gathering data on teaching assistant (TA) opportunities: [form](#).

Attached is data from the Faculty of Social Sciences regarding VSS impact on PGRs:

[https://stir-](https://stir-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jh126_stir_ac_uk/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B487A857A-1DBD-4338-9DC7-6F23A174C2D0%7D&file=VSS%20Data_Ashley%20Willis.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true)

[my.sharepoint.com/personal/jh126\\_stir\\_ac\\_uk/\\_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B487A857A-1DBD-4338-9DC7-6F23A174C2D0%7D&file=VSS%20Data\\_Ashley%20Willis.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true](https://stir-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jh126_stir_ac_uk/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B487A857A-1DBD-4338-9DC7-6F23A174C2D0%7D&file=VSS%20Data_Ashley%20Willis.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true)