Allow all members to contribute to the running of their societies: 
motion discussed at Student Council on 22\textsuperscript{nd} March 2018

\textbf{Students’ Association note for information:} The \textit{University of Edinburgh’s Code of Practice relating to Edinburgh University Students’ Association} states that “Any student not in membership* of the Students’ Association is not entitled: (a) To participate in the government of the Students’ Association and, in particular, to propose or vote in referenda, attend meetings, stand or vote in the election of Students’ Association Officers, Students’ Council, Standing Committees and Representative Committees, or play any part in any other comparable bodies that may be established. (b) To hold office in any Students’ Association Committee or Society. (c) To benefit from any concessionary rates for membership of Societies, or for attendance at entertainments events, that may be offered exclusively to Students’ Association members.

The \textit{society constitution template} is approved by Activities Executive and adheres to this University code. The Student Council does not have the power to change the society constitution template or to overrule the University code.

*Members of the Students’ Association must be matriculated students at the University of Edinburgh.

\textbf{What we will do:}

1. Lobby Edinburgh University Students’ Association (EUSA) Activities Executive to change Activities policy to allow all members to contribute to the running of their societies through voting in General Meetings and standing for non-executive committee positions.
2. Lobby EUSA to change the compulsory clauses in the society constitution template as follows:
   a) Amend 4.1.b from “Any full student member of the Society shall be entitled to sit on the Committee.” to “Any member of the Society shall be entitled to sit on the Committee.”
   b) Amend 4.1.c from “The Office Bearers must be members of the Society and a matriculated student of Edinburgh University.” to “All Office Bearers must be members of the Society.”
   c) Amend 4.10.f from “All members who are matriculated students of the University of Edinburgh shall be entitled to stand and to vote in elections.” to “All members shall be entitled to stand and to vote in elections.”
   d) Amend 4.10.d from “Only fully-matriculated students are entitled to vote at the AGM.” to “All members are entitled to vote at the AGM.”
   e) Introduce new clause 4.3.d: “The Executive Office Bearers must be members of the Society and matriculated students of the University of Edinburgh.”
Background to this:

1. EUSA have introduced a new society constitution template which clarifies their policy on non-student participation in societies, in particular allowing non Edinburgh University students and alumni to neither vote in General Meetings nor to stand for any committee positions.
2. Many societies have operated for many years under the belief that non Edinburgh University students have had the right to vote and stand for non-executive committee positions.
3. Many societies benefit greatly from non-Edinburgh University student members to help them run the wide variety of events and experiences that they offer.
4. EUSA policy already requires a minimum of 75% of the membership of each society to be Edinburgh University students.

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. All paying members should be allowed to have a say in the direction of their societies. Creating a second class of membership is unfair, inappropriate, and detrimental to societies’ success.
2. Non Edinburgh University students committee members can and do help their societies immensely. Societies should not be blocked from recruiting willing volunteers.
3. All committee members are committed volunteers who work for the whole society; all of their contributions should be welcomed and celebrated.
4. Societies should have a say in how they choose to run themselves and should not have such damaging policy forced on them by EUSA.
5. Having students engage with the wider community is good for students so should not be discouraged.
6. Requiring that the executive office bearers and at least 75% of the membership are current students of the University of Edinburgh is sufficient to ensure that societies are student-led and run primarily in the interest of students.
7. EUSA’s purpose is to improve the student experience, so we should not have a policy which negatively impacts this as the existing policy does.