



Student Council

Thursday 29 November 2018, 6 – 8 pm, Teviot Debating Hall

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Accountability
 Paper A
3. Motions
 - i. 'Take a stand against Transphobia on our campus'
 Paper B
 - ii. 'Hot Water device in KB Campus Library'
 Paper C
 - iii. 'Support PostStudyWorkVisaNow Campaign'
 Paper D
 - iv. 'PostStudyWorkVisaNow Expenditure Request'
 Paper E
4. Extraordinary Motion
 - i. 'Representing Trans and Non-Binary Students'
 Paper F
5. The Students' Association's Future: What do you want to see?



1. Welcome

Your guide to Student Council

What is Student Council?

The Student Council is the primary mechanism to discuss ideas and create Students' Association policy. It is open for all students to attend and vote, and students are actively encouraged to do so. Meetings contain the following key features:

- 1) You can hear and discuss Sabbatical officers' accountability reports.
- 2) You are given the opportunity to make speeches for either a motion or expenditure request. All members are then invited to debate on the topic and vote on its passing.

Discussion of Motions

Student Council is chaired by a trained and impartial Student Council Facilitator to ensure debate is fair and orderly, and in accordance with the Students' Associations' Safe Space Policy. The Facilitator decides the running order of the meeting, which is usually as follows:

- a) Facilitator invites speeches for a motion or expenditure request (usually the proposer of the motion speaks first, or a representative on their behalf)
- b) Speeches for and against amendments
- c) Vote on amendments
- d) Speeches against a motion or expenditure request
- e) Summation
- f) Questions and comments
- g) Vote on motion or expenditure request

Extraordinary Motions

An Extraordinary Motion is a motion which has the power to censure an officer, amend the current democracy regulations, or submit a referendum proposal. If an Extraordinary Motion receives 67% or more of the total votes in favour at Student Council then it shall become Association policy. If an Extraordinary Motion receives less than 67% of the total votes in favour at Student Council then it shall not become Association policy. An Extraordinary Motion will not proceed to an online ballot if the motion receives less than 67% of the total votes in favour at Student Council. The regulations of the Association may be amended by passing an Extraordinary Motion outlining the proposed amendments at two consecutive Student Council meetings.

Voting



Once an issue has been adequately discussed, there will be a vote by paper ballot. Elected Student Council Members are given weighted votes of 1.5, compared to 1 for a vote from an unelected member. **Additionally, only Elected Representatives can vote on expenditure requests.** Please note that abstentions made at Student Council meetings will count towards the total number of votes. The table below explains the different voting outcomes:

If a Motion receives...	<33%	33-67%	67% or more
Ordinary Motion	Motion does not become Association policy	Motion is referred to online ballot	Motion becomes Association policy
Extraordinary Motion	Motion does not become Association policy	Motion does not become Association policy	Motion becomes Association policy

If an Expenditure Request receives...	<50%	50% or more
	Money from Student Council Fund is not allocated	Money from Student Council Fund is allocated

The online ballot

Student Council online ballots take the form of a secret ballot in which all members are asked to vote either for, against or abstain to an Ordinary Motion which has failed to receive enough votes at Student Council. Please note that abstentions made on the online ballot will not count towards the total number of votes.

Ballots will be posted on the Students' Association website and communicated to students within four working days after the associated Student Council meeting. Ballots will normally be open for two working days, with results being announced within two working days after the ballots close.

Online ballots will need to obtain a Quorum for motions to pass. If an Ordinary Motion(s) passes on this Quorum then it shall become Association policy, and will subsequently be published on the Students' Association website.

Safe Space Policy

Edinburgh
University
**Students'
Association**



Representation & Democracy

Student Council meetings are run in accordance with the Students' Association's Safe Space Policy. A meeting shall be deemed to be a safe space where no-one is disadvantaged or discouraged from contributing, so long as they respect others' ability to contribute; and where the principle of equal opportunities is respected.



Edinburgh University Students' Association Democratic Meeting Code of Conduct¹

Introduction

The Students' Association's democratic meetings including Student Council Meetings, Committee Meetings, and General Meetings are the Student' Association's primary policy-making bodies. It is therefore vital that all students feel safe, respected, and able to fully participate.

Edinburgh University Students' Association strives to be a place where contentious topics can be debated accessibly and with consideration for the needs of all participants. However, we recognise that some topics may be particularly difficult or distressing for some members to discuss.

The purpose of this policy is to enable us to facilitate productive debate in a way which is respectful and enables all members to participate.

Code of Conduct

Attendees of democratic meetings are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which is respectful and does not disadvantage or discourage others from participating in the discussion. This includes but is not limited to:

- Allowing others to speak when called upon by the meeting facilitator.
- Refraining from behaviour that discourages others from speaking or prevents others from hearing the speaker including speaking over, interrupting, heckling, or laughing.
- Where appropriate, using content warnings to highlight – in advance – discussion of sensitive topics. This would generally take the form of "I am about to mention [insert subject here]" and should be followed by a pause to allow members to remove themselves from the meeting if they wish.
- Respecting others' experiences, even if they differ from your own.
- Refraining from utilising social media to harass or intimidate others.

Safe Space Policy

All democratic meetings are conducted under the Students' Association's Safe Space Policy. The aim of this policy is to create an environment in which all students, staff, and visitors feel welcome, respected, and able to fully participate in our events and activities. Attendees should take care to read and understand the Safe Space Policy before participating in any democratic meeting.

¹ [https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/pageassets/eusapolicy/Edinburgh-University-Students-Association-Safe-Space-Policy\(1\).pdf](https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/pageassets/eusapolicy/Edinburgh-University-Students-Association-Safe-Space-Policy(1).pdf)



Representation & Democracy

It is the responsibility of the meeting facilitator to uphold the Safe Space Policy and ensure it is being implemented.

If you experience or witness an incident which you believe is in breach of the Safe Space Policy you can report it either:

- **At the time**, to a member of Students' Association staff or the meeting facilitator
- **At a later date**, by emailing complaints@eusa.ed.ac.uk

The Students' Association's Complaints Procedure is confidential and impartial. Incidents will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If an individual is found to have breached the Safe Space Policy they may face one or more of the following actions, at the discretion of Students' Association staff or the meeting facilitator:

- Verbal Warning
- Request for an Acknowledgement of Wrong-doing and Apology
- Removal from Venue

Incidents may also be referred for investigation under the Students' Association's Disciplinary Procedure or the University's Disciplinary Procedure.

If you would like to report an incident to the Police, you can access support and advice (including information on Third-Party Reporting) through the Advice Place, the Students' Association's impartial and confidential advice service.



2. Accountability

Paper A

VP Community: Georgie Harris

Summary

November was a busy month, from events about housing to workshops about sustainable period products. Looking forward to a nice winter break and to seeing everyone again in January for Semester 2 (already!!)

Community Engagement

Summary	The University isn't currently prioritising automatic voter registration so I'm exploring other ways of pushing it. I've attended Community Council meetings to find out about local issues affecting students, and working on endorsing a People's Vote on Brexit.
Actions	<p>Automatic voter registration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a paper outlining benefits for students and the University. • Securing written backing from Lothian Valuation Joint Board (electoral registration office) through a letter of support to the University. • Discussing it at the Student Admin & Support Board <p>Local community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending Community Councils (Southside, Old Town, Tollcross) to address issues affecting students, and represent UoE students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussing the Street Assist scheme – if you have comments/experiences with them get in touch. • People's Vote campaign: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spoke at the Scotland for a People's Vote launch. ○ Shared details of People's Vote related events hosted by our student societies. ○ Publicised how to contact your local MP and find out who your constituency MP is.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning different approaches to ensuring full University commitment to AVR. • Drop-in events for next semester with local MPs – all students are constituents and can ask their MP for help/ advice (or lobby them!)



Housing

Summary	Organised a housing event, attended by local councilors from the City Centre wards and surrounding areas (like Marchmont and Leith Walk); Members of Scottish Parliament; representatives from two of our local MPs' offices; the Living Campaign; our Advice Place.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ran a successful housing event. • Spoken to local MPs - will meet with the convener of the council's housing committee and discuss strategies to include student accommodation in planning laws, making a certain % of it affordable. • Future of housing in Scotland - attending a roundtable at the beginning of December representing students. • LGBT+ student accommodation - Continuing research (get in touch!) • Part Time Student Rep - Met about issues faced in university owned student accommodation. • International Students Rep - working on how to inform international students about their housing rights in an easily accessible form. • Student housing co-op - Attending meetings about potential new development.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting the convener of the City of Edinburgh Council's housing and economy committee to discuss affordable student accommodation. • Working on improving students' knowledge of their rights as tenants. • Continuing research into LGBT+ student accommodation at other universities.

Sustainability

Summary	Attended the NUS Sustainability Summit at Manchester Metropolitan Students' Union, came away excited with lots of new thoughts and ideas!
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NUS Sustainability Summit and Student Eats conference – Attended to hear from other SUs about sustainability initiatives going on around the country. • “Environmenstrual” Workshop - Organised with Women's Environmental Network, for students to learn more about sustainable period products available and the pros and cons of these. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussed periods being taboo and ways of getting around that.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explained more about plastic waste caused by so many period products. ○ If anyone wants to organise similar workshops - let me know! ● Eco-friendly period products - focusing on this generally, and how to get these included in our sanitary product distribution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lilypads - Meeting to discuss the work they do around this area. ● Sustain.Ed event - planning for our upcoming event to raise awareness around the theme of reuse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asking societies and groups to get - feel free to get in touch ● VP Activities and Services, Shay, and I are planning our "Green Guide" to provide eco-friendly but affordable shopping alternatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting with people from Veg and Vegan Soc about providing cheap student recipes avoiding meat or dairy. ● Ecosia – exploring it as a default search engine instead of Google. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Met with the Social Responsibility and Sustainability Department this week to discuss. ○ Speaking to Sabbatical Officers from universities that have switched to see how they achieved this
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting with the marketing manager of the Edinburgh wide cycle hire scheme to discuss student offers and how to increase student to use of the bike scheme (as well as good areas to have docking stations). ● Planning events and panels for Sustain.Ed.

Other

- I've had lots of meetings around Bedlam Theatre and potential future development it might need, attending the monthly Bedlam Forum with reps from Bedlam and the Students' Association
- Transport! Me and Eleri (President) have been going around campuses to film students talking about their views on transport to and from their campus. We've created a video to present to members of University Court making a case for the urgent need to implement short term ways of improving our transport situation.
- I ran and spoke at an event for Mental Health and Wellbeing Week on mental health and well-being for students on their year abroad, alongside Leah who is the Undergrad School Rep for LLC
 - This was a really successful week organised by Kai (VP Welfare) and it was great to play a part in it and chat to students at our stall in the main library.



VP Education: Diva Mukherji

Summary

This month has been spent doing a load of workshops with some great groups of students, and it's been so great hearing the diversity of experiences across the university!

Diversifying the Curriculum

Summary	<p>Diversifying the Curriculum is looking at how we can use the curriculum as a space to represent people from different backgrounds, and understand the various power dynamics which exist in University spaces. This work broadly looks at students and staff working together to understand what “diversifying” looks like, and how that can work in different subject areas.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops with various groups of students: so far, we've done workshops on diversifying the curriculum (and curriculum development more broadly) with some programme reps, members of liberation campaigns and a wider decolonizing the university workshop with PALS leaders. We've had attendance from students belonging to all three colleges, and have gauged how students want to proceed. Along with diversification of curriculum, we're going to look at diversity within academia and University more broadly. • Symposium on teaching about race and ethnicity: Attended a meeting with the BME Officer, Isabella, with academics across the University about how it teaches about race, and how it can be developed. The focus was on the new interdisciplinary course about race, which is in the process of being developed, but became much wider.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We're having follow up meetings with various academics about how we can develop opportunities for students to work on these projects. • Continuing to have workshops with student groups, and develop a resource bank students can access with information about diversifying and decolonizing the curriculum. • Diverse Role Models project! (Big up WellComm for their work on this!!)



Inclusive Learning Environments

Summary	<p>We've been working on ensuring students have appropriate academic and pastoral support from various sources, and that students are feeling comfortable in classes.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microaggression Training: All the RA's have been trained! We're integrating it into other training for student leaders, such as program reps, so we're spreading the awareness as much as we can. I hosted a Microaggressions and Mental Health workshop for Mental Health and Wellbeing Week which generated super interesting conversations! We're looking at integrating it into existing supervisor training in some schools. • Personal Tutor System: Working on a paper which summarizes what forms of academic and pastoral support students require, and how the University can accommodate that. • Lecture Recording Policy: Recorded a Teaching Matters podcast about lecture recordings, and how helpful they can be for different student groups! • Special Circumstances: Continuing to push for a more consistent and accessible system for students, advocating for it in various College/University committees. • Resource Lists: Working with VP Activities and Services, Shay, on the resource lists policy framework, and looking to ensure students have access to their necessary materials at the lowest personal cost possible.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating Microaggression training into the various forms of Unconscious Bias training which already exists. • Continuing to develop the resource list policy, and push for transparency in necessary course costs (and evaluating if they're actually totally necessary and make sure students don't have to spend loads of money on stuff).



Other

- **Library Collections/Edinburgh University Students' Association internship collaboration:** We're developing some super cool internship opportunities with the Special Collections department, which will look at the history of different student groups at the University! It's super exciting, so will keep you updated on when they're open for applications!
- **Common Marking Scheme evaluation:** Looking at ways for students to understand marking schemes better, and crucially, how to use feedback best. Each school seems to do something different, with feedback/marking/rubrics (huge surprise there), so the School Reps have given us some really helpful information to work with!

VP Welfare: Kai O'Doherty

Summary

The past month has been focused on planning and running Mental Health & Wellbeing Week, which was a great success! I order my report based on my three key objectives.

Improving Mental Health Support

Summary	This includes: counselling services, the University's Mental Health Strategy, Mental Health & Wellbeing Week, year abroad support, special circumstances and mental health peer support.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health & Wellbeing Week (Nov 12-16): 60+ events across all campuses ranging from feel good/wellbeing initiatives, to events on men's mental health, BME experiences, self-harm, eating disorders, and experiences in STEM. Hundreds of staff and students were involved. • University Student Mental Health Strategy Refresh: The current strategy has yielded few measurable results. I've spent multiple day-long review sessions to reprioritize the approach, and demand concrete next steps in the strategy. We need to keep an eye on this. • Special Circumstances: A contested proposal to reform the Special Circs process was approved at the first stage, awaiting final approval. This restructure will standardize and anonymize the process, addressing key student issues.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opt-In Policy: consulted school and programme reps on a proposed policy for students to 'opt-in' for the University to inform emergency contacts if they're worried about your mental health or whereabouts.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory Interruption 'Support for Study': continue to lobby to prevent this change in the policy. • Suicide Prevention: creating a holistic suicide prevention strategy and awareness campaign for Semester 2, along with the President. • Mental Health 1st Aid: continuing to pursue options to open up this training to more students, if financed by the University.

Combatting Sexual Violence

Summary	<p>This includes: growing the awareness raising campaign #NoExcuse, training, and addressing the procedures survivors/victims access.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #NoExcuse, anti-sexual harassment campaign: interested students are now self-organizing events with our support. Presented the campaign to 1st/2nd year students at the Gender in the Contemporary World lecture. Discussed using the campaign with other SAs in Edinburgh. • Sexual Violence Procedures: the University SV Taskforce met, with plans to roll out Rape Crisis Scotland training to staff. Soon to meet on improving reporting, procedures, and awareness strategies. I attended a conference in London on Sexual Violence in Higher Education, and Rape Crisis training. • Code of Student Conduct: up for review, I successfully lobbied for improvements to the COSC which will address issues survivors have faced with that part of the process.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #NoExcuse: a new round of phrases/text will be printed/distributed, based on student submissions. Student-led initiatives will also be supported.



- **Policy & Procedures:** University SV Taskforce sub-groups soon meet to action particular areas. I continue to lobby for a separate Sexual Violence Policy, with particularized support mechanisms.
- **Zero Tolerance:** after last Council's motion, I am working to finalize a Policy, and improve our processes & training.

Centering Anti-Oppression

Summary	This includes: to support the Liberation Officers' work, improve support for trans students, and enhance support for international students, parents, carers and mature students.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trans and non-binary student advocacy: continuing to fight for a Trans & Non-Binary Liberation Rep, and to do what is possible about the transphobic materials found on campus. • Free Moon Cups & Organic Products: Moon cups arrived! And then ran out (after less than 12 hours)! More are on the way, along with organic tampons and pads. Finalizing plans for 'emergency' supplies near bathrooms, too. • Benefits Advice: Universal Credit, the new benefits system predicted to disadvantage thousands of people, is about to begin. Held event advising students on how to access existing benefits before UC is imposed. • Thematic Review of Support for BME Students: met University staff about this review in Semester 2, which will hopefully be useful in the fight to battle institutionalized racism at UofE. • Met with the Parents' Rep, with plans for child-friendly meet ups for the students she represents.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Equality & Diversity Committee: there is no University-level committee tasked with addressing inequality and diversity, besides one on student disabilities and another on Athena Swann (staff- and women-specific). I'm working to change this. • Finalize plans for the Thematic Review, along with the BME Liberation Officer.



- Childcare/Creche Facilities: a longer-term struggle, continuing to push for the University to provide affordable childcare for student parents, following the Thematic Review of Parents, Carers & Mature Students.

Other

- **Vet School:** Nirvana, their undergraduate school rep, and I are strategizing around her campaign to make University halls better suit vet students. I attend their Council.
- Working on the Students' Association's next **Strategic Plan** in full-day workshops.
- The Sabb team attend the **University's Away Day**, with discussions on expansion of student numbers, capital projects, and student experience strategies.

VP Activities & Services: Shenan Davis-Williams

Summary

Great month with a lot of time planning specific events and meeting with societies and Activities Reps. We had Mental Health and Wellbeing Week, which was possibly one of my favourite weeks in the job so far, and we have also had lots of exciting club nights.

Events

Summary	November was busy with both day and evening events, plus a lot of preparation for future events.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween takeover - very successful; three locations full of fun activities - a great night with something available for everyone. • ABBA takeover - great turnout and we are looking into having more takeover nights in future- suggestions welcome! • Reviewing Big Cheese - managed to lower the price of VKs plus new and improved drinks promotions. • Hydration Station - available at our club nights keeping students hydrated and providing a more interesting, free alternative to alcohol. • Christmas Calendar - December will be a month full of exciting club nights, outdoor movie screenings and lots of festive markets. • Sports v Socs - with £500 of cash prizes, alongside kickback for every member through the door.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New mascot - present at our club nights, raising awareness for campaigns, elections, fundraisers, activities weeks and events. • Students' Awards - combining Activities Awards and Impact Awards into one big celebration. • 2019 Sports Day planning - combining ESCA, the Sports Union and Edinburgh University Students' Association for a day of fundraising and fun themed activities. • Wellbeing Festival – Key part of Mental Health and Wellbeing Week. Great day with presence from many societies and external companies, along with lots of fun freebies, massages, painting walls, games and puppies! • Postgraduate events – looking to increase what we offer – if you are a postgraduate student with ideas/opinions then let me know!
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Christmas events run smoothly with something for all students. • Keep club nights busy with a variety of drinks, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, available at an affordable price. • Continue to promote Dusty the mascot. • Continue planning Sports Day. • Reach out to Postgraduate reps for ideas or feedback on events, and organise more events focused towards our postgrad students.

Student Engagement

Summary	Met a lot with societies and Activities Representatives. Each Sabbatical Officer has taken on a campus, mine are ECA and Divinity. This month I have spent a lot of time communicating with ECA.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society meet and greets – now finished and went fantastically. • Activities Reps – held one-to-ones with them, helping prioritise objectives and making clear plans to help them achieve goals. • ECA SSLCs (Student Staff Liaison Committees) – Attended, meeting the students and listening to problems, helping where I can.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Albertina at ECA – discussing to see ways we can improve the space with a better heat and eat station better environment.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society meet and greets – preparing for next semester. • Activities Reps – Continuing support. • Maintain communication with ECA - support their needs. • Divinity - set up a meeting with both the undergraduate and postgraduate reps to see what their objectives are for the year and how I can support them with these.

Improving Student Services

Summary	Working on a very varied selection of our services.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Green Guide' – Working with VP Community, met with Vegetarian and Vegan Society, alongside potential involvement from our Student Voice for Animal Rights society. • Menus - Reviewed some menus - the new Library Bar menu will include more vegetarian and vegan options, alongside a cheap breakfast menu. • Room bookings system - Further discussion taken place, working to see if a new system can be in place at some point next semester. • Catering - worked with our Activities Rep for the Faith, Belief Systems and Spiritual Development societies. Ensured catering forms for society events are reworded and more accessible for students to bring in their own catering to fit their dietary requirements the Students' Association cannot cater for them.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Green Guide' – continue work with VP Community, drafting sections. • Menus - Continue implementing more vegetarian and vegan options. • Catering - ensure societies are able to access catering that is specific to their needs.



Other

- **Anti-cyberbullying Campaign:** Met with key staff about this campaign. Next steps are to contact people about current campaigns, see how they can help, and speak to the University to tie our work in together, and find case studies.
- **ECA grant:** Various meetings and decided the grant is best focused at students in their final years trying to pay for materials for degree shows. Next steps are to build a strong case study and explore potential funding. Any ECA students or friends of ECA students with ideas that may help, whether it be financial difficulties or information and examples of the impact that good materials can have on your work, please get in touch!

President: Eleri Connick

Summary

It's the last report for Semester One – wow wow wow – time has flown by!!

Super super **good luck** for all the exams and essay deadlines coming up – will be thinking of you all and have a wonderful Christmas break!

We Are Edinburgh

Summary	The We Are Edinburgh activity is designed to start building a student community, where we are celebrating all of our achievements more!
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community: Have given three presentations on the concept of 'We Are Edinburgh' and how the University must 'show you care' and 'show you are proud' to various University leadership forums. Using these presentations to help with writing the plan for moving forward on student experience.
Going Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing Students at two further University gatherings and have the first meeting for the new action group on student experience.

Members

Summary	The Students' Association exists for our members, it is essential that what members want, is at the heart of what we do.
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<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance: Received lots of feedback from International Students on the tone of voice used by University Finance Department. Met with members of the University Finance Team and Edinburgh Global who are going to improve these communications. • Also agreed that the regional deans will look out for any currency devaluation or natural disasters that occur across the globe, so that the University can make sure it contacts any students impacted. • Interviews: On the interview panel for a new Information Services Group Communication position which will be extremely important for students so that students know how to access services easier. • Yoga: Yoga went super well this semester so it'll be back in the main library in January! • Alumni: Last month at Student Council, a question was asked on the University's 'Alumni Discount'. I have now arranged a meeting with the bursaries team to look into this discount and to discuss what other Scottish Unis do for their alumni if they stay on for further studies. • Transport: after working with VP Community on outreach I'm heading to University Court next week, presenting your amazing feedback from Easter Bush, KB, Little France and Peffermill about the current transport provision.
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with University Finance to reshape the communications going out to students.

Other

Thank you to you all for coming to Student Council and making your voice heard! Please be in touch with any questions. My email is president@eusa.ed.ac.uk or you can call on 01316509405 or find me on Facebook as 'Eleri Pres Connick'.

We are more than just students – **We Are Edinburgh** xoxo



3. Motions

- i. 'Take a stand against Transphobia on our campus'
Paper B

What will we do:

1. Lobby the university to use any measures at their disposal to identify the perpetrators who have left these messages on campus, and to prevent people from placing further transphobic messages.
2. Ensure that where possible perpetrators face consequences under Students' Association and University Disciplinary processes.
3. Promote the ways students can report hate messages and incidents so the Students' Association and the University may deal with them appropriately.
4. Reiterate support and inclusion for Trans and Non-Binary students and take a consistent stand against harassment and discrimination.

Background to this:

1. Recently, stickers containing transphobic messages have been planted all over campus, including at Teviot, Potterrow, and the Library. These messages fall under the definition of hate incidents put forth by Police Scotland, as the messages are clearly motivated by hate and prejudice against Trans and non-binary people, who are a protected social group by law.
2. 'The Students Association has a clear stance against harassment and discrimination, including that based on gender identity/gender expression.
3. According to UK charity Stonewall, "Two in five trans people (41 per cent) have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months. Three in ten non-binary people (31 per cent) have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity," with more than half of young trans adults (18-24) having experienced a hate crime or incident.
 - a) It is also severely underreported with 79% of trans people not reporting crimes to the police. Given these statistics, it is pertinent more than ever that trans students are supported and protected on campus.
 - b) One in seven trans university students consider dropping out of higher education courses due to discrimination or harassment from staff or students in the last year.
 - c) (See more at: <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/lgbt-in-britain-trans.pdf>)
4. Students (independently and part of university societies) have been going around campus removing and covering up the discriminatory signage and have loudly condemned these actions, but the unknown perpetrators continue to place these messages on campus.
5. Given this, the issue must be taken seriously and be escalated

Beliefs and motivating actions:



1. Trans and non-binary individuals face immense and increasing violence and oppression based on transphobia in the United Kingdom.
2. The Students' Association and the University have a duty to support the wellbeing of its students, especially those who belong to a marginalised/Liberation group. They must support their trans and non-binary students by not just removing and condemning transphobic messages, but actively taking steps to reduce transphobia on campus and deliver the clear message that harassment has consequences and will not be tolerated under the Zero Tolerance policy.
3. Trans and non-binary individuals are entitled to a safe campus and have the right to live freely and safely within the university community without fear of harassment or discrimination.
4. It is paramount to ensure that university facilities and public spaces, especially on campus, are inclusive of trans and non-binary individuals, and it is made clear that this is the case.
5. Harassment of trans and non-binary individuals must not be treated as a valid stance or a valid expression of free speech on campus platforms.
6. The facilities, security measures, and teams are already in place and exist for monitoring this situation so the cost should not be high.
7. The University of Edinburgh should strive to set a clear example of tolerance and inclusivity given the diverse nature of its community.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.

- ii. 'Hot Water device in KB Campus Library'
Paper C

What will we do:

1. Ask the University staff to build some hot water devices in Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library.

Background to this:

1. As the Representative of School of Mathematics, I have received many complaints about Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library from the maths students, and this is the most frequent one and easiest to be changed.
2. As a student living in the Kings Buildings campus, I have received the same complaints from my flatmates as well.
3. Saw 'hot water' appeared many times on the whiteboard in staircase of the library.

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. On behalf of students in the School of Mathematics, the library in our campus is influencing each of us every moment.
2. We need a better library to help us study more efficiently. The hot water devices is one of the biggest requirements among all the demands. They can make it easier to



drink hot water, hot tea, hot coffee without leaving our library. Hot water can make us feel better when we feel uneasy while hot tea and coffee can keep our head clear when studying.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.

- iii. 'Support PostStudyWorkVisaNow Campaign'
Paper D

What will we do:

1. By endorsing the PostStudyWorkVisaNow campaign and working with them.
2. By using Edinburgh University Students' Association venues to host meetings and events
3. To support PostStudyWorkVisaNow by signing and campaigning for their petition, which demands:
 - a. Government to reintroduce a post-study work visa that allows graduates to work in the UK for at least two years after graduation.
 - b. A lower, regional salary threshold.
 - c. No restrictions - a post-study work visa should be offered to anyone who graduates from an FE or HE programme that lasts for 11 + months in the UK.
 - d. Healthy ecosystem – the government must support FE and HE institutions in offering opportunities to enhance employability, build capacity and engage with the job market while in education.
 - e. FE & HE institutions to include employability and local as well as overseas job opportunities in their internationalization strategy.
 - f. Students to be removed from the net migration target.

Background to this:

1. There are 442,375 international students in the UK, including 312,660 non-EU international students.
2. The post-study work visa scheme was an idea initially born and championed in Scotland, under the name Fresh Talent Scheme in 2005. It was soon integrated into a UK wide system from 2008.
3. International students pay staggering amounts of money in tuition fees, visa costs, and NHS bills – they are being treated like cash cows.
4. The international student community contributes £20.3 billion to the UK economy annually - never mind the cultural diversity, global outlook, and internationally relevant skills they bring to the UK.
5. The current hostile environment policy makes international students feel unwelcome in the UK, and 19% of non-EU students would not recommend the UK as a place to study for a friend or relative (this is as high as 34%, 36% and 38% for students from India, Nigeria, and Pakistan respectively).
6. The number of non-EU international students finding employment after graduation has fallen by seven and a half times since the UK scrapped post-study work visas in 2012.
7. Over the years, and beyond its abolishment in 2012, the Scottish Government has continuously supported post-study work visa schemes and highlighted the need for a specific post-study work pathway for international students in Scotland.



8. During International Student Day 2018, PostStudyWorkVisaNow launched in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh with various politicians and students; including former Students' Association President Briana Pegado who campaigned for this during her sabbatical term in 2015.
9. Fighting to bring back the post study work visa is active NUS Scotland policy, having been passed by the SEC in August 2018.

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. Most of these students are being forced to go home unjustly despite having built their lives in their city of study, and despite making the UK culturally, socially, intellectually and financially stronger. It is a disgrace that international graduates are being deported or otherwise forced to leave.
2. International students are fed up with the long wait and empty promises that have constituted the conversation about re-establishing the post-study work visa in the UK – this should be a tangible campaign outcome, not a buzzword or unfulfilled manifesto pledge.
3. PostStudyWorkVisaNow will work with students at the Students' Association and across the UK, including in England, Northern Ireland and Wales – to bring a united campaign to Westminster so international students can stay in the UK after graduation.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.

- iv. 'PostStudyWorkVisaNow Expenditure Request'
Paper E

What will we do:

1. To allocate £1000 from the Student Council fund for the campaign's activism through:
 - a. Printing (flyers, posters) - £300
 - b. Tshirts - £100
 - c. Website and Promotion - £80
 - d. Banners - £50
 - e. Badges - £50
 - f. Events - £150
 - g. Videography and design - £70
 - h. Speakers cost - £200
 - i. Total - £1000

Background to this:

1. A motion on supporting the PostStudyWorkVisaNow campaign was submitted to the November 2018 Edinburgh University Students' Association Student Council meeting.

Beliefs and motivating actions:



1. For this campaign to be effective and achieve its goal, it must be properly resourced.

Expenditure Request Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.

1. Extraordinary Motion

- i. 'Representing Trans and Non-Binary Students'
Paper F

What will we do:

1. Amend Edinburgh University Students' Association 'Student Democracy Regulations' as follows:
 - a) Part 1, Section C: ii) b) delete the word "four" and insert in its place the word "five";
 - b) Part 1, Section C: ii) b) insert "5) Trans and Non-Binary Officer";
 - c) Part 2, Section A: i) a) 2) delete the word "four" and insert in its place the word "five";
 - d) Part 1, Section B: i) a) 2) insert "5) Trans and Non-Binary Officer";

Background to this:

1. Since 2016, the National Union of Students (NUS), Students' Unions and Students' Associations across the UK have created Trans (and Non-Binary) Officer positions, as separate from LGBT+ Officers, after fighting for years to create a separate Trans Campaign.
2. An informal survey of 29 trans and non-binary students at the University of Edinburgh found that the majority, 65.5%, supported the creation of a Trans and Non-Binary Campaign and Officer. 6.8% were undecided. 75.9% preferred the campaign be called the 'Trans and Non-Binary Campaign'.
3. Historically, the LGBT+ Campaign and Sabbatical Officers at Edinburgh University Students' Association has only been represented by one single trans person (that we know of), whose three years as a representative have frequently required a trans person to respond to issues, despite that not being their elective role.
4. According to the Scottish Trans Alliance, "enacting Student Union policies that would be helpful to trans students, and similarly blocking policies that would be harmful, is often impossible if there is no representation of trans people within the university...or the Student Union" (<https://www.scottishtrans.org/trans-rights/practice/further-higher-education/trans-inclusion-in-student-unions/>)
5. Several NUS conferences, including NUS Trans Conference 2018, have reinforced the need for an autonomous Trans Campaign to exist without 'removing the T' from the LGBT+ campaign. This is because:
 - a. "1. The LGB+ and Trans communities have a shared history of struggle
 - b. 2. The LGB+ and Trans communities have a shared oppression, that based on how gender norms are used to police people's behaviour.
 - c. 3. In it in the interests of both LGB+ and Trans people to continue to organise together" (



[west1.amazonaws.com/nusdigital/document/documents/43321/dc05428793acc1cd52165c956fc733b0/TSC Live Policy 201720.pdf](https://west1.amazonaws.com/nusdigital/document/documents/43321/dc05428793acc1cd52165c956fc733b0/TSC_Live_Policy_201720.pdf), p 23)

6. Trans and non-binary students face issues many LGB student face, but also experience particular (and increasing) violence and oppression based on transphobia which cisgender (non-trans) LGB people

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. Trans and non-binary students face immense barriers to education, employment, services and social life in a way that is unique to them, and which have historically been sidelined by lesbian, gay and bisexual campaigning on other issues such as gay marriage;
2. Transphobia is on the rise in the UK, with increased visibility having the drawback of increased negative attention from transphobic people and groups;
3. The Students' Association should campaign for marginalized students' rights and experiences, including people targeted for their gender identity and/or expression;
4. Marginalized groups should be represented by someone who identifies within that group, as is the case for our other Liberation Campaigns, and a cisgender LGBT+ Officer cannot represent trans and non-binary students in the same way as a trans/non-binary person could;

Extraordinary motion submitted by Association Executive.

5. The Students' Association's Future: What do you want to see?

- Workshop led by the Sabbatical Officers.



Student Council Expenditure Tracker

June 2018- May 2019

Responsible: sabbatical officers

Description	Date approved at Student Council	Allocated budget	Spent to date	Remaining
Total at June 2018		£ 4,000.00		£ 4,000.00
Totals		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total unallocated budget		£4,000.00		