Student Council
Thursday 30 March 2017, 6 – 8 pm, Teviot Debating Hall

AGENDA

Student Council – 6.00pm

1. Welcome

2. Accountability
   Paper A

3. Affiliations
   Paper B

4. Motions
   i. Elected positions for Postgraduate Research and Postgraduate Taught University Representatives (Extraordinary Motion)
      Paper C
   ii. Reaffirming our commitment to a Conflict-Free Campus
      Paper D

   ~Access Break~

   iii. Edinburgh University Students’ Association Commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day
      Paper E
   iv. In memory of Gordon Aikman
      Paper F
   v. Defend EU and International students! (Expenditure request)
      Paper G

5. Societies Council Report
   Paper H
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

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:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If a Motion receives...</th>
<th>&lt;33%</th>
<th>33-67%</th>
<th>67% or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Motion</td>
<td>Motion does not become Association policy</td>
<td>Motion is referred to online ballot</td>
<td>Motion becomes Association policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraordinary Motion</td>
<td>Motion does not become Association policy</td>
<td>Motion does not become Association policy</td>
<td>Motion becomes Association policy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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 Conduct

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

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

Edinburgh University Students’ Association is a charity (SC015800) and a company limited by guarantee (SC429897) registered in Scotland. Registered Office: Potterrow, 5/2 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL
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.

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**  
Report from Jess Husbands, Vice President (Societies & Activities)

#### Disability Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>In April students called for the University to conduct a review into the support for disabled students on campus. This review has now concluded the interview-style sessions with a range of university students and staff, and the findings and recommendations were presented at University Senate on Weds 1st Feb. Will be presented to Principal mid-April.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Actions | • Key points:  
  o Learning adjustments from the SDS will have ‘mandatory’ status, not ‘recommended’.  
  o Relaunch of Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy (AILP)  
  o IT work already underway to improve the capabilities of IT system – essentially so it won’t all be done via email, and more complex things re data.  
  o Disabled GO, the leaders in this sector, have been commissioned to survey the estate re accessibility, and will create an app which will be ready by Welcome Week. Will be able to tell the user e.g. the location of the nearest accessible toilet. This survey work will also help the University to plan accessibility redevelopments in a more strategic manner.  
  o An annual audit will take place in schools to assess what proportion of adjustments are being implemented.  
• Final draft of the report is being written. Will be finished and presented to the Principal mid-April.  
• The review team is holding meetings in each college to present findings to staff there and give staff the opportunity to ask any questions. We’ve held the first one at little France, which was broadly positive and constructive. |
| Next steps: | • Meetings with other heads of Colleges to discuss the report and get input.  
• My work here is pretty much done, and I’m vastly proud of the review and what it will achieve. The next VPW will have a big role in implementation of the |
recommendations, and before I leave I’d like to get a clearer idea of what the implementation plan is.

### Mental Health

**Summary**

A growing % of students are experiencing mental ill health. This is putting severe strain on the University Counselling Services, which is acting in a capacity it was never intended for as a result of the increased incidence and NHS cuts. Trying to look at preventative as well as reactive measures.

**Actions**

- Am working with students who got involved in MHWBW to hold an event around eating disorder support, to see if it is feasible and there’s sufficient interest to warrant an eating disorders support group. This could be a trial for other mental health related support groups. Such initiatives probably wouldn’t start until next semester, but we’re looking to put on the eating disorders pilot event in the next couple weeks.

- Am also looking at figures and feedback from Mental Health Week to look at how the Students’ Association should take a lead on mental health issues in the future.

**Next steps :**

- The next VPW will have a huge role to play in implementation of student mental health strategy. I’m prepping a great handover to ensure they’re as briefed as possible on this.

### Sexual Health etc.

**Summary**

Sexcetera is this week!
### Actions

- Sexcetera is this week! Come to some events! Wahoo!

### Next steps:

- Analyse whether the week was well received, whether it should be put on in future, etc, etc. (sexetc!)

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#### Sexual Harassment!

**Summary**

Sexual harassment sucks, obviously.

**Actions**

- Am liaising with Leeds and Sussex SUs who’ve been successful in encouraging local bars and clubs to give their staff sexual harassment training, as I’d like to see if this is something we could mimic here. I started this way back in October and contacted various organizations with no success, but I’m back to the drawing board and undeterred.

- Relaunch of the No One Asks for It campaign. We’re holding more active bystander training sessions (if you’re interested please get in touch). The university have released a Webinar for staff on sexual harassment.

- I’m encouraging the uni to publish figures around the number of cases they’ve had in the past year. Hopefully this will give a level of accountability.

**Next steps:**

- Continue with all the above!
Society Support

Summary

I’m VPSA, I love societies, I wanna support societies be great.

Actions

- Activities Reps have been elected. We’re working on developing training for them.
- Activities Awards! Huge success, congrats to everyone who was nominated for or won an award, and I hope everyone had a good night.
- Linking up with ISC following last council’s motion to find them a suitable alternative space.
- Lobbying the uni for increased funding for the next round of the Widening Participation Fund.
- Assessing how the future of the WP fund should be allocated: should we split it up into sports and societies? Is there a way the societies portion could be better managed to have more of an impact?
- Am looking at barriers to PG involvement in societies by analyzing results from our annual survey.

Next steps

- Act on PG barriers to involvement.
- Continue to liaise with commercial on society involvement in our commercial outlets and events, e.g. like VegSoc involvement in meat free Mondays.

Other:

- Microwaves and Kettles:
  - Working on survey work I did earlier on in the year to do a GAP analysis of which study spaces have kitchen facilities and which don’t. Will then either act on getting kitchen facilities, or pass this onto the next VP Welfare, depending on time constraints.
- Handover
  - Write some absolutely amazing (and inevitably really long sorry) handover documents for the next VPW and VPAS.
  - Prep training for them to ensure that they’ll be a kick ass team.
You can always contact me with any queries on eusavpsa@ed.ac.uk or via facebook, where my name is Jess Husband Vpsa.

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Report from Patrick Garratt, Vice President (Academic Affairs)

**LiberatEd**

**Summary**

Supporting students who are leading the LiberatEd campaign; hosting departmental meetings and ensuring that infrastructure and training is prepared for next academics year.

**Current stages:**

- We have run departmental meetings for the Schools of SPS and HCA, meeting over 100 course organisers about both course content and delivery.
- Hosted open meeting with staff about sharing best practice from individual course organisers, and discussing next steps.
- New Learning and Teaching Strategy has now been officially launched. The Students’ Association lobbied for the line: ‘Using the curriculum to promote inclusion, equality and diversity.’ There are internal drivers within the University which staff can be directed to as a means for supporting LiberatEd.
- School of HCA now looking at revising documentation for course approval process, so that course organisers must explain how they will be attempting to embed inclusion, equality and diversity in the curriculum.
- School of SPS now forming a specific ‘SPS in Practice’ course which will provide students with the opportunity to collaborate with staff by analysing the reading lists and course content of core, pre-Honours courses in SPS. This should serve as an example of best practice across CAHSS.
- LiberatEd now has buy-in from staff at University level and amongst individual course organisers, and this will ultimately help those students in each School who will carry on pushing for curricula reform and changes made to teaching practice over the next few years. There are two general
pathways within LiberatEd, one being policies and institutional procedures, and the other being constructive staff-student collaboration and co-curriculum. Both these strands are currently being addressed, but it will be the latter that will have the more significant effect in the long-term, where academics will start listening to their students, taking their ideas and criticisms onboard, and ultimately seeing students as partners in the pedagogical process.

**Next steps**

- Departmental meeting in LLC.
- Preparing materials for next year’s class rep training so that they are given support in being able to audit their curricula.
- Establishing key contact base amongst University staff and Students’ Association staff, and ensuring that student reps next year are provided with clear frameworks for achieving change through LiberatEd.

**Postgrad representation**

**Summary**

Finalising new Code for Tutors and Demonstrators

**Update**

- Motion presented to Student Council regarding new roles passed overwhelmingly.
- The work that the Students’ Association has done with UCUE and the University will be concluding over the next month.
- Although still unconfirmed, we are confident that we have won the arguments for removing the arbitrary six-hour cap that tutors & demonstrators are currently faced with.
- Our calls for specific postgraduate tutor mentor roles to be filled by academic staff members in each School - very similar to the model which currently operates in the School of Divinity – will hopefully be met over the next month.
- One of the major issues however will be the implementation of the new Code for Tutors & Demonstrators, which we will working to ensure that student reps next year will be able to monitor, and which we hope the next set of sabbatical
officers will continue to support tutors & demonstrators on. Responsibility for determination of pay will lie with Schools.

- New tutor liaison committee now established in the School of LLC, and the first meeting will take place in late April.
- We will also be looking at how postgraduate representation within the Students’ Association can be improved next year.

### BME Attainment Gap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Supporting the BME Liberation Group with report to highlight BME students’ experience at the University of Edinburgh, particularly with regards to teaching practice and curriculum content</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Update</td>
<td>Report will be finished in April, and will serve to steer discussions at University level.</td>
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### Supporting year abroad students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Funding for Big White Wall and more comprehensive education on culture shock for year abroad students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Update | Following on from last council, we are currently lobbying the University to increase the funding into Big White Wall licenses.  
Successfully lobbied the University to establish group to look at how staff members are trained to advise students on culture shock once they leave to go to their host institution. |

### Special Circumstances

| Summary | Pushing for greater frequency of Special Circumstances Boards within Schools. |
## Update

- The Students’ Association has been highlighting the imperative for staff to consider the welfare of students when they wait to find out if their special circumstances request is approved, if they hand in a piece of coursework seven days after the initial deadline. For this reason, the University are now looking into how special circumstances requests can be conducted through electronic business, through more frequent special circs boards.
- Working to clarify that for students with learning adjustments, seven days extension is provided on top of initial adjustment extension.

## Discontinuation of PhD supervisions

### Summary

The University wants to establish a process whereby if the relationship breaks down between a PhD student and their supervisor, and is beyond the point of mediation, then a student can be ‘excluded’ from University. Like the approach we adopted in opposition to the Support for Study Policy, we have been contesting this approach, and will continue to do so, so that the burden of responsibility is not put upon the student for a breakdown in the supervisory relationship, and that procedures are in place to ensure that Schools exhaust all options to find alternative supervisors for students.

## Student Partnership Agreement

### Summary

Established broad parameters for change which the Students’ Association can work with the University on, but will delay releasing this SPA, so that the sabbaticals-elect can take ownership of the agreement, and adjust it to their priorities.

## What else has been going on?

- Elections! The last week of elections in particularly saw the sabbatical officers do a lot of outreach and candidate support.
- Attended NUS Scotland Conference.
- The policy for lecture recordings is currently being developed, and the Students’ Association has important input into this process. Ideas around accessibility, supporting students for whom English is not their first language, facilitating flipped classrooms and blended learning, as well as moving away from the passivity of the banking model of education, will be arguments underpinning how the Students’ Association interacts with and convinces staff about the need to support the policy on lecture recordings.

- Attended two Senate Committees, which were largely relevant in relation to PhD students, and to extension procedures for undergraduates.

- Helping form the University’s new Widening Participation Strategy. I will be working with NUS Scotland on ensuring that greater weight is put on access for Scottish students through articulation.

- We will be ensuring that students vote in the Local Council elections, as well as lobbying candidates to commit to the demands voted on by Student Council in late 2016.

- Secured commitment from the University that review will place year looking at the support that student parents and carers currently receive – we are hopeful that this will achieve concrete change.

- Working with staff at Main Library to ensure space is available for students, particularly as the opening of the Lower Ground Floor has seen far more students using the library facilities.

Report from Jenna Kelly, Vice President (Services)

Summary of activities

Commercial services activity

Meat-Free Mondays with VegSoc, minimum card spend removed in Students Association outlets, return of the halloumi burger, comment cards introduced in Students Association spaces, KB deli queue reduced through additional point-of-sale provision, vegetarian meal deal for <£3, gluten-free burgers on Teviot menu, Big Cheese pre-sale ticket service, stocking Brewgooder beer on draught.
Social responsibility and sustainability activity

Funding for drinking water review project, ESSA (European Student Sustainability Auditing) project, 2 student seats on Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Options Review Group, SustainED festival 2017, observational seat on investment committee, allocation of £500 to 8 sustainable student projects and initiatives through the Sustainable Campus Fund.

Estates activity

Scottish Student Housing Summit, 80% increase in affordable housing for 17/18, final 25 placing in Santander bike hire scheme competition, 7 Bristo Square foyer renovations, consultation for KB estates projects.

Liberation activity

Women in homelessness initiative, #unapologeticallyme photography project.

Looking to the future

- Regular Farmers Market in Students Association spaces
- Social impact investment work with the university; looking at similar options for the Students Association
- Development of the university residential strategy, to look at opportunities for managing external providers, and develop a clear pricing model for rents
- Improved and expanded guarantor scheme
- City-wide, standardized solution to transport problems for ALL students (commuting and inter-site)
- A greater portfolio of local business and community partnerships to provide opportunities for students
- Sustainable food waste project, campus-wide.

If there’s anything more you’d like to see in the realm of services, sustainability or estates before the end of term (29th May), please email eusavps@ed.ac.uk, Facebook message ‘Jenna VPS Kelly’, or pop into the Potterrow office to chat; will do my utmost to facilitate your ideas before June, or build their foundations during the handover period.

Many thanks to you all for coming along to student council this year and contributing to important decisions which will help shape students’ experiences for the coming months and years. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed working with you all on developing and improving the Students Association, and leave you in the safe hands of Oliver Glick VP Community-elect, and Kai O’Doherty VP Activities and Services-elect to continue the great work.

[Good luck with coursework, dissertations and exams!]

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Report from Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson, EUSA President

Summary

The following is a list of the 7 themes of achievements this year that need ongoing work as well as some of what I consider the most important developments in the past month. I have included a catch all for some of the other projects/focuses. Please feel free to get in touch with me if you would like to hear more developments/achievements and/or hear how the ones described here fit into the wider strategy.

Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Bus 41 Subsidy and 9-Month Ridacard</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>This year we have successfully turned the University’s attention to the problem of transportation and worked out several solutions for some of the issues. But this is just the beginning. The Uni now recognises that it needs to invest in transportation and fix many of the issues it has created.</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Next steps:</th>
<th>The work in this area is far from over. This will be a key piece of work over the next few months and will be followed through by the VPC next year. Especially around postgrad and underprivileged student bursaries for travel in the Med and Vet School as well as shuttle buses to the Med school.</th>
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Changes to the Digital Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>A summary of the number of different items that will be changing in the next year/years as a result of Student Association input</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>Timetabling on the phone is the latest of a number of upgrades in the student digital experience. Alongside online recorded lectures, the Student Association App, an upcoming revamp of MyEd and a potential Talks at Edinburgh (working on</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
this one currently) this represents a fundamental change in the way that students will interact with the University.

We are also working with the surveys unit and people in student systems to capture opinions about how to better design MyEd for next year. More work on this to follow in the coming months and will be passed on to the sabbatical team next year.

A side note: Next year all new students will have a personalised email instead of an “s1234568” as their default!

Next steps:

The work on the digital experience is also far from finished! The next few months and indeed the coming years will be focused on integrating all of the new services as much as possible onto as few platforms as possible in order to reduce some of the complexity and miscommunication.

Development and Alumni/Mentoring Program

Summary

Various strands of work done around increasing the engagement of students with alumni

Achievements

A plan is being designed to tap into the network of hundreds of thousands of alumni around the world. They could support students as they think about applying, as they look for and join jobs, as they transition to life after Uni in foreign cities etc.

Furthermore, a mentoring application is being designed to facilitate mentoring relationships between students and alumni during their time at Edinburgh.
Next steps:

Preliminary steps include linking cultural societies, the international office and the D&A department in order to begin fostering relationships. The mentoring program is holding consultations and steering group board meetings are ongoing. Launch date or timeline is still being decided.

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**Participation Review/Grant**

**Summary**

£10,000 Participation Grant for students from lower-income backgrounds and a broader participation review

**Achievements**

In light of research that suggests that financial barriers are a significant impediment to student involvement in Sports and Societies, we have created a pilot fund for students from lower-income backgrounds to engage in sports and societies.

We have also been looking at some of the associated issues for students in taking part in certain specific societies and how we can structure research and consultation into this.

**Next steps:**

Over the next few months and years we will try to secure repeat funding (ideally more funding) and will investigate new ways to allocate the money. We will also be conducting a broader investigation into some of the non-financial barriers to participation. This will be largely undertaken by the VPAS next year.
### Library Improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>358 new library spaces/a new lower ground level for students to study and the 24 hour library</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td>Following on from work from last year, we have been working with the library staff to secure 358 new spots in the library and a new Lower Ground area in which students can study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next steps</td>
<td>We have also worked with the uni to keep the library open 24 hours. This is in response to broad student demand and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We are continuing to work with the University to find and create new spaces for students to study and work in the central area and at other campus locations. We, and the future sabbaticals, will be involved in consultations about further changes and developments to the library estate.</td>
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</table>

### Social Enterprise Vision

| Summary | Secured funding from the University for a £5,000 grant to help students start/grow social enterprise initiatives; increased our presence in the Uni and Edinburgh City ecosystem and |

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### Achievements

We launched the grant for capital funding for sustainable businesses with a specified social mission. This is in reaction to increased activity throughout the university and the difficulty in acquiring funding.

We have also been involved in a number of forums and events to do with Social Enterprise and have reconfigured our offering to Social Enterprises in the Activities office and given responsibility of social enterprise to the new VPAS.

### Next steps:

Social Enterprise will be a huge part of what Scotland, the University and the Association over next few years as it is an extremely up and coming area. On May 11th we will have a social enterprise event to review the progress made by recipients of the grant and to secure future grant monies. Future sabbaticals and the whole association will continue to develop our offer to social enterprises, our participation in the Edinburgh SE Ecosystem and our vision for student involvement in social enterprise and business for purpose.

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### Council Elections

#### Summary

We are beginning to plan our approach and desired outcomes (policy not people) for the upcoming council elections.

#### Achievements

We have drafted a plan with the external campaign organisers and will be reaching out to hear from class reps/school reps about what their major issues or concerns.
are. We have engaged with NUS and an external organisation to begin to align our efforts around voter turnout and influencing manifestos.

**Next Steps**

Continue to plan the approach and bring in additional, relevant stakeholders. Eventually we will advertise the elections to students in order to drive participation. I will continue to update as this progresses.

**Catch All**

**Summary**

Some of the other things that have been done this year that need to be followed up on, tied up, and furthered over the next few months and years

**Achievements**

- International experiences – Make sure that the University makes good on its promise to offer EVERY student an international experience by 2025
- £5K for Mindfulness Program – Continue with a focus on preventative mental wellbeing
- Voter Registration – Follow up to make sure that the changes we have agreed are implemented
- Best student employers – An award for the best student employers in Edinburgh
- MyDevelopment Hub – Due to start next September. Make sure that our societies and activities are well represented
- Estates – Continue to push for student spaces and the developments that we want for students at court and various committees.
Next Steps

Continue with the above and don’t lose focus of the key themes for change in the next few months and years!

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 eusapres@exseed.ed.ac.uk, my facebook name is “Alec EUSA Pres” or you can call me at 01316509405.

3. Affiliations

Edinburgh University Students’ Association’s affiliations, March 2017

There is a need under the Education Act 1994 to review all ongoing affiliations each year. The details are as extracted below:

“When a student union is affiliated to any external organisation there are to be procedures for the review of affiliations under which the current list of affiliations is submitted for approval by members annually or more frequently, and at such intervals of not more than a year as the governing body may determine, a requisition may be made by such proportion of members (not exceeding 5 per cent) as the governing body may determine, that the question of continued affiliation to any particular organisation be decided upon by a secret ballot in which all members are entitled to vote.”

Our agreed process for undertaking this review is that The Student Council (as a meeting open to members) and the Trustee Board jointly review the affiliations annually. The Trustee Board has a requirement under charities law to ensure that the Students’ Association is sound and viable and so it jointly approves the list of affiliations to ensure that no affiliations pose a legal or financial threat.

The Students’ Association currently has policy which affiliates it to the following groups. Student Council must vote on whether to continue to affiliate to these organisations or not.
If both bodies reject the affiliations then they will cease. If only one body rejects the affiliations then the status quo will remain, however students could call for a referendum under the normal procedures should they disagree with the outcome of the review.

The information below is provided to help Student Council make an informed decision. The detail about each organisation is taken from their websites and there is added context where applicable.

**Affiliations**

1. National Union of Students (NUS), Referendum 2004 (last reviewed at Student Council December 2015)
   Affiliation fee: £51,929.20 for 2016/17


   “The National Union of Students (NUS) is a voluntary membership organisation which makes a real difference to the lives of students and its member students’ unions. We are a confederation of 600 students’ unions amounting to more than 95 percent of all higher and further education unions in the UK. Through our member students' unions, we represent the interests of more than seven million students. NUS champions students to shape the future of education – and create a better world. We promote, defend and extend student rights. We fight discrimination, isolation and injustice. Through practical information and national action, we make sure students can thrive. We support and strengthen students and their unions. We are informed – developing research that influences national policy. We are active – taking on all the issues that affect students’ lives now and in future. We know students.”

   “NUS works to champion the commercial success of Students Unions by negotiating purchasing deals with suppliers, and a host of additional benefits for its members. Our ethical and environmental work delivers a greener supply chain, greener unions through new environmental projects, and best practice schemes such as Sound Ethical Choice and Green Impact. To support our members we operate a dedicated customer service centre that provides training and advice on matters such as alcohol policy, negotiating fairer PPL fees, and energy management. We provide bespoke market analysis and insight, and an extensive programme of membership events. Our members also benefit from a programme of constructive engagement with suppliers over ethical/environmental issues and from our central billing facility, which saves considerable administration resource within unions.”
Context: The Students’ Association benefits £295,805\(^2\) annually from affiliation with NUS. This is mainly through retail and licensed trade purchasing deals associated with NUS Services, the commercial arm of NUS. In addition to this the Students’ Association benefits from resources, training events and support available for student officers, students and staff. Through its membership the Students’ Association is also able to shape the policy of NUS via delegations of students to national conferences. The Students’ Association sends eight delegates to NUS UK annual conference and fourteen to NUS Scotland annual conference.

2. Stop Climate Chaos, Student Council 2011 (last reviewed at Student Council December 2015)
Affiliation fee: None
http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/
"Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is a diverse coalition of 60 organisations in Scotland campaigning together on climate change. Our members include environment, faith and international development organisations, trade and student unions and community groups. SCCS is working to ensure Scotland plays its fair part in tackling climate change and that the commitments set out in the Scottish Climate Change Act are achieved, including targets to reduce emissions by 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.”

3. National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts (NCAFC), Student Council 2013
Affiliation fee: £1 minimum annually (last reviewed at Student Council December 2015)
http://anticuts.com/
"The National Campaign Against Fees & Cuts is a network of student and education worker activists, founded at a convention at University College London in February 2010. Since then, the NCAFC has helped activists on campuses up and down the country organise radical direct action against tuition fees, education cuts and wider cuts to public services. The NCAFC has played an integral role in the movement that developed from November 10th 2010 following the occupation of Millbank Tower, calling several national days of action that mobilised hundreds of thousands of students. In November 2011, we organised a national demonstration against the government’s higher education white paper, bringing 10,000 students to the streets of London. In November 2014, we led the mobilisation of another demonstration of 10,000 students, marching for free education.”

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\(^2\) 2013/14 (most recent figures)
Edinburgh University Students’ Association is a charity (SC015800) and a company limited by guarantee (SC429897) registered in Scotland. Registered Office: Potterrow, 5/2 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL
Context: The Students’ Association has organised student attendance at some NCAFC demonstrations in the past.

4. Votes at 16 Coalition, Student Council 2012 (last reviewed at Student Council December 2015)
Affiliation fee: none
http://www.votesat16.org/
“The Votes at 16 Coalition campaigns for 16 and 17 year olds to be able to vote in all UK public elections. We are made up of leading youth and democracy organisations from across the UK.”

Context: 16 and 17 year olds can now vote in Scottish local and Scottish Parliament elections.

5. Right to Education Campaign, General Meeting 2005 (last reviewed at Student Council January 2016)
Affiliation fee: none
http://right2edu.birzeit.edu/
“The Right to Education Campaign is a grassroots Palestinian movement that seeks to document, research and raise awareness about the issues facing Palestinian students, teachers and academic institutions under Israeli military occupation. Demanding unimpeded access for all Palestinians to their academic institutions, the Right to Education Campaign opposes Israel’s illegal occupation and attacks on Palestinian educational rights. The campaign also seeks to build an international movement in support of Palestinian students, teachers and educational institutions.”

Context: In the past few years at the Students’ Association Right to Education Week has consisted of several events organised by the Students for Justice in Palestine society in conjunction with visits from students from Birzeit.

6. Friends of Birzeit University (FOBZU), General Meeting 2005 (last reviewed at Student Council January 2016)
Affiliation fee: £15 annually
http://www.fobzu.org/welcome-fobzu
“Friends of Birzeit University’ supports the right to education and its role in the wider development of Palestinian society. Fobzu is engaged in advocacy for academic freedom. Working with decision makers, the media and the general public, we raise awareness about
the obstacles to education under occupation and campaign for Palestinian rights to be upheld.”

Context: General Meeting policy also twins the Students’ Association with Birzeit University.

4. Edinburgh University Students’ Association Motions

i. Elected positions for Postgraduate Research and Postgraduate Taught University Representatives (Extraordinary Motion)

*Note: As an extraordinary motion, this motion must pass at two consecutive student councils to become students’ association policy. The motion passed at the last student council on 2 March, so this is the second time it must be approved. It can only pass if it receives 67% of the votes in favour, or 50 votes, whichever is greater. It cannot go to online ballot.*

**Paper C**

What will we do:

1. Amend Edinburgh University Students’ Association ‘Student Democracy Regulations’ as follows:

Part 1, Section C: ii) c), delete the word “five” and insert in its place the word “seven”;

Part 1, Section C: ii) c), insert “6) Postgraduate Taught Representative” and “7) Postgraduate Research Representative”;

Part 2, Section A: i) a) 3), delete the word “Five” and insert “Six”;

Part 2, Section A: i) a) 3), insert “ 6) Postgraduate Research Representative”;

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Part 2, Section A: ii) a), insert “2) Postgraduate Taught Representative”.

Background to this:

1. Our Students’ Association includes over 13,000 postgraduate taught (e.g., Taught Masters) and postgraduate research (e.g. Masters by Research and PhD) students, who we currently fail to adequately represent in the same way we represent undergraduates since the vast majority of representative roles are filled by undergraduates.

2. Postgraduate students feel that their student experience is extremely different from the experience of undergraduate students, so they need to be represented on different issues.

3. The Students’ Association has consulted both postgraduate-taught and postgraduate-research students widely about ways in which postgraduate representation can be enhanced. Whilst there is postgraduate representation at School-level, they need university-level representation to address many additional issues affecting postgraduate students.
   a) Postgraduate taught students feel that they need to be represented on issues including (but not limited to): the lack of postgraduate taught community across the University, study space, social space, extremely high tuition fees, integration of both on campus and online distance learning students into the wider university, inconsistency of academic support including dissertation support, and issues arising from the short duration of their degree.
   b) Postgraduate research students feel that they need to be represented on issues including (but not limited to): inconsistency of academic support including research support, the lack of formal support for personal and welfare-related issues, the lack of postgraduate research community across the University, the location of desk space, social space, integration into the wider university, the provision of tutor and demonstrator roles, training and support for tutors and demonstrators, and issues arising from interrupted study in Edinburgh during field research.

4. The Students’ Association Sabbatical Officers have worked closely with postgraduate tutors over the past twelve months over a host of issues, including fair-pay, subject-
specific training, and access to facilities. It is clear that having an elected representative for postgraduate research students would help the Students’ Association advocate for and represent this cohort in the future.

5. The best persons suited for representing these groups are postgraduate taught and postgraduate research students themselves.

6. Whilst University and College Union Edinburgh (UCUE) represent postgraduate students in terms of their working conditions, the Students’ Association has a responsibility to support their needs and welfare as students, and to ensure they are listened to by members of academic staff.

7. The Students’ Association has been establishing specific committees for postgraduate-research students within Schools, but there needs to be wider representation for postgraduates across University committees and across the Students’ Association.

8. The Students’ Association has been establishing more representative spaces within the University for postgraduate students, and has been developing strategies for increasing postgraduate engagement in the future.

9. The addition of these two elected positions would ensure that the Students’ Association provides more representative structures, which will mean that postgraduates are less likely to be forced to rely on undergraduates to present their concerns to University staff members.

10. Role descriptions for these new positions are currently being formed, based on the previous Postgraduate Convenor role and tailored to Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research student needs based on consultations. The role descriptions do not need to be ready until September 2017, ahead of the by-elections.

**Beliefs and motivating actions:**

1. That postgraduates need more representative spaces across University-level decision making boards.

2. That postgraduates should not have to rely on undergraduates to address concerns across the University.

3. That student representatives must support those students who teach, particularly when many of these tutors and demonstrators are on precarious
contracts, are provided with little training, and who currently have little representative input.

4. That the experiences of postgraduate taught and postgraduate research students are fundamentally different from each other and from the undergraduate experience, and therefore two separate roles are required to capture the vastly different set of needs and demands of these two groups.

Submitted on behalf of Association Executive

ii. Reaffirming our commitment to a Conflict-Free Campus

Paper D

What will we do:

1. To affiliate and publicise affiliation to the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative, a project of the Enough Project’s raise Hope for Congo campaign.
2. To support and facilitate the organisation of awareness events on the issue where possible or relevant.
3. To educate students on the issue of Conflict Minerals, on University and Students’ Association policy of procurement on this issue.
4. To encourage students at the University of Edinburgh to get involved the Conflict-free Campus Initiative and promote ethical consumerism amongst the student body.
5. To continue to uphold the Students’ Association Conflict Minerals policy (passed at student council 3/12/15) and lobby to ensure the University to does the same.

Background to this:

1. The Students’ Association policy passed on the 3rd December 2015 mandated the Association to “raise awareness” and “encourage engagement” on the issue as well as alter its procurement policy to avoid Conflict Minerals.
2. The University of Edinburgh’s Central Management passed a policy on 1st March 2016 which “seeks to help to protect vulnerable communities by avoiding the use of minerals that fund conflict.” This made our University the first to implement a policy of this type, in the UK.
3. That the mining of tin, tantalum, gold, and tungsten is financing conflict in certain areas, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo, due to local military groups controlling mining operations.

4. These minerals are collectively termed ‘Conflict Minerals’ by organisations working to end the human rights abuses and violence encouraged through the supply chain of minerals mined in these areas.

5. In March of 2017 the EU voted to adopt the final draft of regulations pertaining to the sourcing of Conflict Minerals. The rules are scheduled to take effect in January of 2021 and will affect UK industries regardless of Brexit due to the large amount of trading the UK does with the EU.

6. The International Peace Information Service found that in 2014 nearly 70% of mines extracting Conflict Minerals in the Congo were not controlled by armed groups. This is in comparison to 2010, when an estimated nearly 90% of the mines were under the direct influence of armed groups.

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. The International Peace Information Service, UN, and the Enough Project have noted the positive impact Universities such as ours, amongst other big buyers of electronics, have made.

2. The support for transparent supply chains from tech giants Apple and Intel, after much campaigning, shows progress is being made through policies such as this.

3. The testimony of Annie Callaway, Advocacy Manager of Enough Project, for this affiliation shows the organisation (Conflict-Free Campus Initiative) wants to be affiliated with us and for us to continue to implement our policy.

4. The knowledge that the Students’ Association and the University have already made a lasting impact, but that this affiliation must be cemented in policy to ensure students remain aware and educated on the issue, and that our Students’ Association may set a positive global example.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures
iii. Edinburgh University Students' Association Commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day

**Paper E**

**What will we do:**

1. Edinburgh University Students’ Associations (EUSA) will recognise Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) on its official calendar.
2. EUSA will support the activities that take place on Holocaust Memorial Day, by coordinating with the Jewish Society and other relevant societies in terms of speakers, stalls and other activities.
3. EUSA will publicise the events surrounding Holocaust Memorial Day.
4. EUSA will light Teviot – and any other Students’ Association building possible – up purple every 27th January to raise awareness for Holocaust Memorial Day

**Background to this:**

1. The Holocaust, the genocide perpetrated by Nazi Germany, killed 6 million Jews and 5 million other people including disabled and LGBTQ individuals, people of Roma descent and political opponents.
2. 27 January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.
3. Holocaust Memorial Day was created on 27 January 2000, when representatives from 46 governments around the world met in Stockholm to discuss Holocaust education, remembrance and research. At the end of this meeting, all attendees signed a declaration committing to preserving the memory of those who have been murdered in the Holocaust.
4. Holocaust Memorial Day has taken place in the UK since 2001, with a UK event and over 7,700 local activities taking place on or around 27 January each year.

**Beliefs and motivating actions:**
1. Holocaust Memorial Day is an international day of commemoration of those who perished in the Holocaust.

2. With only a few years left when survivors will be able to tell their experiences first-hand, it is vital that as many students as possible are able to hear their testimonies

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures

iv. In memory of Gordon Aikman

What will we do:

1. Edinburgh University Students’ Association will lobby the University of Edinburgh to rename a lecture theatre after Gordon Aikman

Background to this:

1. Motor neurone disease is a rare condition that progressively damages parts of the nervous system. It occurs when specialist nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, called motor neurones, stop working properly. This is known as neurodegeneration.

2. After graduating from the University of Edinburgh and working as the VPSA in EUSA (2007-2008) Gordon Aikman was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease (MND) in 2014.

3. Following this, Gordon Aikman set up the charity ‘Gordon’s Fightback’ and raised over £500,000 for MND research.

4. His lobbying led to the Scottish Government doubling the number of MND specialist nurses across Scotland and was instrumental in changing the law so that people at risk of losing their voice as a result of a medical condition could access voice equipment on the NHS.

5. For his tireless campaigning, Gordon received the British Empire Medal and was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Edinburgh in July 2015.


Beliefs and motivating actions:
1. In recognition of Gordon Aikman’s contribution to public life, the University of Edinburgh should name a lecture theatre after him, as a testament to his charity work, his connection with the University of Edinburgh and the Edinburgh University Students’ Association.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures

v. **Defend EU and International students! (Expenditure request)**

*Paper G*

**What will we do:**

1. Allocate £500 in funding for the 'Another Europe is Possible - Edinburgh' group of students to run a campaign around students' rights

**Background to this:**

1. Theresa May has claimed she will trigger Article 50 as soon as the 29th March.
2. EUSA supported a 'Remain' vote in the EU referendum.
3. Brexit threatens students, both from the EU and further afield, who are unsure if their current status will be maintained in the medium- to long-term.

**Beliefs and motivating actions:**

1. EUSA should support efforts to stand up for the rights of all students and fight to give them guarantees in a time of great uncertainty.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures
4. Report from the Societies Council for approval

Paper H
Societies approved by Societies Council

Blood, Bone Marrow and Transplant Society
Crumble Press
Embedded and Robotics Society
Transhumanist Society
Women in Business
Eat the World
# Student Council Expenditure Tracker

**September 2016 - May 2017**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date approved at Student Council</th>
<th>Allocated budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total at Sep 2016</td>
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<td>£6,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUS demo buses</td>
<td>27 Oct</td>
<td>£1,650.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students oppose government's immigration clampdown</td>
<td>27 Oct</td>
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<td>Council elections</td>
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<td>Sexcetra</td>
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<tr>
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