

Student Council motions progress 2016-17

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Motions	Progress
Give Edinburgh students a voice: integrate voter registration and enrolment 27 October 2016	
Edinburgh University Students' Association condemns Antisemitism 27 October 2016	
Students must oppose the UK government's immigration clampdown (Expenditure request) 27 October 2016	
NUS and UCU National Demonstration (Expenditure request) 27 October 2016	
Special Circumstances Review 24 November 2016	
Representing Student Voices in the Council Elections (Motion and expenditure request) 24 November 2016	
Nap Pods and Rest Facilities 5 December 2016	
Making Universities More Inclusive of People of Colour (Motion for NUS Scotland Conference) 13 February 2017	
Our Ability but not our Money – Financial Assistances to International Students in Need (Motion for NUS Scotland Conference) 2 February 2017	
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Edinburgh University Students' Association Supports Gaelic 2 February 2017	
Make Special Circumstances More Accessible 2 February 2017	
Fund Feminist Street Art on Campus 2 February 2017	
Allocate £1500 to Sexcetra 2 February 2017	
Call for increased Edinburgh University Students' Association and university support of the International Student Centre 30 March 2017	
An End to Period Poverty on Campus 30 March 2017	

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Progress of Student Council motions 2016-17 (November 2016)

Key:  Completed  In progress  Facing difficulties

Motion	Summary (What will we do?)	Progress	Issues	Status
<p><u>Give Edinburgh students a voice: integrate voter registration and enrolment</u></p> <p>27 October 2016</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby the university to integrate voter registration and enrolment, so that students can choose to submit information via an online form for both matriculation and voter registration Follow the 'Sheffield Model' implemented at other institutions and outlined in this document, where the university has an agreement with the council that allows it to collect data for voter registration via its existing online system for matriculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conversation with Bite the Ballot who worked with the university, the student union and city council in Sheffield. ● Alec highlighted this to Uni but said there was some reluctance. ● Follow up for next year's sabs. ● VP Community, Georgie, has worked consistently on this in semester one, 2018. The University have given it the go-ahead – expecting to see it implemented for matriculation in September 2019. 		
<p><u>Edinburgh University Students' Association condemns Antisemitism</u></p> <p>27 October 2016</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh University Students' Association will reaffirm its commitment to fighting antisemitism and will condemn it in all its forms. The Students' Association will adopt the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) Working Definition on antisemitism (see below) as a document integral to identifying and fighting antisemitism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy is published on the website. 		
<p><u>Students must oppose the UK government's immigration clampdown (Expenditure request)</u></p> <p>27 October 2016</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Give People & Planet up to £200 for campaign materials including banner making, leaflets, posters and other related expenses to help run the Migrants' Rights campaign on campus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People & Planet have so far claimed part of this for an event in semester one. 		

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<p><u>NUS and UCU National Demonstration (Expenditure request)</u></p> <p>27 October 2016</p>	<p>1. To request, dependent upon travel arrangements with other students' associations, a maximum of £1,650 from the Students' Association's campaigns budget to subsidise the cost of coach travel to the NUS and UCU National Demonstration on 19 November.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two buses from the Students' Association went to the Demo. Napier, Heriot-Watt and Queen Margaret student unions co-funded the buses. 		
<p><u>Special Circumstances Review</u></p> <p>24 November 2016</p>	<p>1. Have the University review Special Circumstances policy to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Take into account unique circumstances which impact upon student carers which adversely affects their performance in an assessment, or resulted in non-attendance or a non-submission for a scheduled assessment. Take into account unique circumstances which impact upon student parents which adversely affects their performance in an assessment, or resulted in non-attendance or a non-submission for a scheduled assessment. Reflect changes in Extension forms so as not to focus on the individual, making it clear that familial and caring responsibilities can impact upon academic performance. Reflect changes in Late Penalty Waiver forms so as not to focus on the individual, making it clear that familial and caring responsibilities can impact upon academic performance. Reflect changes in Special Circumstances so as not to focus on the individual, making it clear that familial and caring responsibilities can impact upon academic performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The University undertook this review. In relation to the 1b and c, the University decided that it was better not to prescribe specific circumstances that might impact on carers and parents but to keep it open to allow for flexibility in interpretation of the rules. 		
<p><u>Representing Student Voices in the Council Elections (Expenditure request)</u></p> <p>24 November 2016</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Students' Association will launch a campaign around the forthcoming Edinburgh City Council elections in May 2017, with the aim lobbying current and prospective councillors and political party representatives to commit to supporting certain student Asks (outlined below) should they be elected. We will mandate the Students' Association to include the following in its list of Asks: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alec and Patrick met with the motion proposers and started to plan for the local elections. Manifesto with key asks planned and meetings with candidates. Contact made with NUS Scotland who won't be launching their local election campaign until the end of March. ● Sabbs met with a candidate from every party. 		

	<p>a) That councillors impose rent pressure zones in areas of central Edinburgh with a high number of student inhabitants, in order to make rents more affordable.</p> <p>b) That councillors assist in ensuring that organisations which provide support for survivors of sexual abuse and violence, such as the Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre, are better funded.</p> <p>c) That councillors work with the police department and local pubs, clubs and bars to encourage all staff to receive training on how to combat sexual harassment, and to allocate the necessary financial and human resources to make this happen.</p> <p>3. Sabbatical Officers and the External Campaigns Committee will take a lead on advancing this campaign.</p> <p>4. The External Campaigns Committee will produce a survey asking students what other issues they would like the Students' Association to campaign on during the council elections. Issues arising from this survey could be raised at a future Student Council, in order to be included within the Students' Association's list of Asks.</p> <p>5. We will work with Class Reps and Schools Reps to disseminate this survey and information about the council elections to their students.</p> <p>6. The Students' Association will use its online platforms, including its website and social media platforms, to promote the council elections to students and encourage students to register to vote.</p> <p>7. We will work with the Students' Association to collaborate with the student associations and student unions of other universities and colleges within Edinburgh in order to collectively advance the goals of this campaign.</p> <p>8. Student Council will allocate £400 to promoting student Asks within the council elections and encouraging students to register to vote. The breakdown of how this money will be spent is as follows:</p> <p>a) 1 Railings Banner (if displaying a banner is approved by the University) - £100</p>			
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) 3 Kappas (or 'pledge signs') - £25 c) 100 A3 Posters - £25 d) 1000 A6 Flyers - £50 e) 1 Pop Up Banner - £60 f) Online Promotion - £50 g) Contingency - £90 			
<p><u>Nap Pods and Rest Facilities</u></p> <p>5 December 2016</p>	<p>1. We are looking for endorsement from the Students Association, then to take the proposal forward to a round table discussion with the university's Commercial Services Department.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Buchanan Institute will discuss provision of rest facilities with the University, who will take any further decisions on implementation. 		
<p><u>Making Universities More Inclusive of People of Colour (Motion for NUS Scotland Conference)</u></p> <p>17 February 2017</p>	<p>1. Lobby universities to be more inclusive of people of colour in two areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In curriculums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Making curriculums more diverse - specifically inclusive of people of colour. ii. Lobby universities to create an interdisciplinary course about race relations in humanities departments. iii. State the importance of all university departments and colleges to provide courses based on race, ethnicity, non-white scholars, and/or non-English speaking countries. iv. Lobby universities to increase representation of people of colour in reading lists in humanities subjects. v. Lobby universities to make it a requirement to include people of colour scholars when designing new courses in humanities. b. In the teaching body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Lobby universities to make the teaching body and student services more inclusive of people of colour. ii. Lobby universities to increase the number of non-white tutors, lecturers, professors and senior officials. iii. Lobby universities to include a quota for the number of academics that are people of colour teaching courses. This should be directly related to the course being taught, i.e. Black Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We submitted this motion to NUS Scotland Conference and it is on the agenda for delegates to discuss and vote on (24th – 25th March). ● Motion passed at NUS Scotland Conference. 		

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	<p>should be organised and taught mostly by people of colour.</p> <p>iv. Lobby universities to make it a requirement for academic staffs to undergo 'Implicit Bias' training, as well as further training to combat racism and microaggressions with the classroom environment.</p>			
<p><u>Our Ability but not our Money – Financial Assurances to International Students in Need (Motion for NUS Scotland Conference).</u></p> <p>17 February 2017</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To submit a motion to the NUS including the followings: 2. Conference Resolves: 3. To reaffirm that education to all students, regardless of where they are come, should not be treated as a business. 4. To lobby universities and colleges to provide more accesses to scholarships and bursaries to international students. 5. To urge the Scottish Government to provide tuition fee and living expense assistances to international students with financial difficulties. 6. To set out a target of which 3% of international students should have accesses to Government's, universities' or colleges' assistances to address their financial difficulties by the time this motion lapses. 7. To facilitate, in a long term, an accessible ability-based education to international students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We submitted this motion to NUS Scotland Conference and it is on the agenda for delegates to discuss and vote on (24th – 25th March). ● Motion passed at NUS Scotland Conference. 		
<p><u>Brexit - A Way Forward</u></p> <p>17 February 2017</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Edinburgh University Students' Association and its representatives should work to lobby the Scottish and UK governments in whatever way possible to accomplish the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fee and funding status - The Scottish Government should provide a guarantee that it will fund EU-domiciled entrants who start studying in Scotland between 2018-19 and for the duration of their course. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. We welcome the Scottish Government's guarantee to continue to fund EU-domiciled entrants for the 2017-18 academic year, and call for a decision on the funding status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A working group has been set up within the Students' Association to look at Brexit. Future meetings will discuss how to take this work forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a lack of clarity from government about how Brexit will progress, what it will mean. 	

	<p>of entrants for 2018-19 to be made by spring 2017 to enable universities to provide accurate advice and guidance to potential students.</p> <p>ii. We strongly urge the Scottish Government to provide certainty that EU students starting their course at any point prior to the UK leaving the EU will continue to be funded under current arrangements for the duration of their course, even where this continues beyond the UK's potential exit from the EU.</p> <p>iii. Without this certainty in the short term then there is a great risk that the number of EU students choosing to study in Scotland will decrease and this would have consequences for local economies and jobs, and be detrimental to society and education. EU students generated £414.1m for the economy and 3743 jobs in Scotland.</p> <p>b. Immigration Status - The UK Government should make an urgent decision on the post-Brexit immigration status of EU students who want to start studying at Scottish universities after the time that the UK officially leaves the EU.</p> <p>i. It is crucial that the UK Government makes a decision as soon as possible on the immigration status of students from the EU who wish to start courses in Scotland after the UK has left the EU. Only then can institutions and students start planning appropriately for any effects of the UK's withdrawal from the EU.</p> <p>ii. EU students make up 9.3% of the undergraduate and postgraduate population in Scotland's universities, and they make up a higher proportion of postgraduate taught and postgraduate research students in Scotland than they do at undergraduate level. As such, a decrease in their numbers due to changes in immigration status potentially poses a challenge to the viability of certain courses.</p> <p>iii. Changes in immigration status would also have a detrimental effect on Scotland's</p>			
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	<p>economy, which could lose out on highly skilled EU graduates who currently are able to remain in Scotland and work after their studies.</p> <p>c. Exchange and Mobility - The UK Government should seek continued access to Erasmus funding or establish an alternative scheme.</p> <p>i. Around 1,600 Scottish students used ERASMUS in 2014-15 to study abroad, and the number of students from Scottish institutions taking part in Erasmus increased by 50% between 2007-08 to 2014-15.</p> <p>ii. Student mobility provides a range of benefits to individual students and institutions. Living and studying in another country broadens students' outlook and provides them with valuable cultural and social experiences, which make them more employable. Graduates with global outlooks are beneficial to society and to employers.</p> <p>iii. The Erasmus scheme is open to non-EU members but it is linked to freedom of movement and as such, this must form part of the Brexit settlement. Without funding for study exchanges this experience will become unaffordable to most students and this will be a loss to education, society and the economy.</p> <p>d. Post Study Work Visa - The UK Government should introduce a scheme, which provides international students with the opportunity to remain in the UK and work after completing their studies.</p> <p>i. There is a concern that the number of students from the EU coming to study in Scotland will decline significantly after Brexit if they face international student fees, no loan facility to pay these and tougher visa restrictions.</p> <p>ii. Under current arrangements, EU graduates can stay and work in Scotland and help meet demand for high skills and contribute to the economy. Stricter visa rules introduced over the last few years have already made the UK less appealing to talented international students.</p>			
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	<p>iii. There is a consensus in Scottish education and politics that a post-study work visa should be reintroduced in Scotland. If there is any restriction on the mobility of EU students post-Brexit then the need for Scotland to have a visa scheme that makes it an attractive destination for talented students will be even more important.</p> <p>iv. As well as being of benefit to education, it would also help to address Scotland's aging population, help to meet demand for high skills and contribute to the economy.</p>			
<p><u>Supporting the Right to Choose</u></p> <p>17 February 2017</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affirm Edinburgh University Students' Association's pro-choice position, supporting the right of those seeking an abortion to make decisions about their own bodies 2. Support the belief that all those seeking an abortion in the UK are entitled to free, safe and legal abortion, regardless of geographical location or ability to pay 3. Support campaigns to oppose any restrictions to current rights and access to abortion 4. Support campaigns to make access to, and experience of, abortion fairer for those who decide not to continue a pregnancy 5. Ensure that independently of the Students' Association's stance on this or any issue, all students who are pregnant and wish to access free, impartial and non-directional advice are able to do so through the Advice Place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No follow up required at present. 		
<p><u>World Autism Awareness Day</u></p> <p>17 February 2017</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Light Teviot – and any other Students' Association building possible – up blue every 2nd April to raise awareness for World Autism Awareness Day 2. Turn off the music in all Students' Association buildings every 2nd April to raise awareness of accessibility issues faced by hypersensitive autistic students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jenna to talk to the Students' Association Events and Entertainment Department to ensure that this is an annual event in the calendar. ● October 2018 - Jenna contacted events team to organize annual event in diary. 		

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Release a statement outlining why we are taking these actions and encouraging the university and other buildings in Edinburgh to do the same 4. Put up posters in Students' Association buildings on the 2nd April explaining why the actions have been taken, to raise awareness and provoke discussion 			
<p><u>Edinburgh University Students' Association Supports Gaelic</u></p> <p>17 February 2017</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a bilingual English/Gaelic Edinburgh University Students' Association logo (giving equal prominence to both languages) to replace at the nearest opportunity the current monolingual logo in key positions (principal signage, website header, printed matter cover pages, screens, headed paper, merchandise etc.), and optionally wherever else space allows. If feasible, also develop a monolingual Gaelic logo for use in potential future Gaelic-only communication. 2. Develop and make publicly available a plan and timescale for the replacement of key signage in Students' Association venues with bilingual signage in consultation with the University's Gaelic Officer. 3. During the annual week-long Edinburgh Gaelic Festival (which is led and developed by the University), include Gaelic-language music on the playlist for Students' Association venues. 4. Identify specific contexts that can be used as vehicles to use, promote, celebrate and normalise Gaelic (e.g. printed matter and events relating to the Highlands, whisky, Highland/cèilidh dancing etc.) and take appropriate action to ensure these are being exploited to this end. 5. Continually work on identifying opportunities for incorporating Gaelic into general communication. 6. Continue to offer opportunities for use and acquisition of Gaelic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Students' Association's Marketing Department are working to produce different costings for this to decide what is financially possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial implications for the Students' Association must be considered. 	

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	7. Declare and acknowledge in appropriate channels that Edinburgh University Students' Association supports the aim of securing Gaelic as an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect with English, as per the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.			
<u>Make Special Circumstances More Accessible</u> 17 February 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lobby the university to review their special circumstances processes to be more accessible and less punitive for students that are already struggling. 2. Lobby to adjust the current system so that students with pre-existing conditions known to the University do not have the burden of proving worsening condition. 3. Lobby the university to provide students with the results of their application before deadlines and exams to prevent heightening of any stress and agitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The review of special circumstances took place. The Students' Association will continue to highlight these issues as the motion was passed after completion of the review. 		
<u>Fund Feminist Street Art on Campus (expenditure request)</u> 17 February 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give £700 to the Edinburgh University Students' Association's Women's Liberation Group to help fund the flight costs for members of the Feminist Street Art Collective: Vienna to come to Edinburgh and hold street art workshops with women students and students of marginalised genders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members of the Feminist Street Art Collective from Vienna visited on 22nd April and 23rd April. Two days of workshops and a mural displayed on the side of the library. 		
<u>Allocate £1500 to Sexcetra (expenditure request)</u> 17 February 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student Council will allocate £1500 to supporting Sexcetra (Title subject to change!) 2. These funds will go towards marketing of the week's events and payment for speakers. Any unspent funds will be reimbursed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sexpression worked with the Advice Place to run a programme of events. 		
<u>Call for increased Edinburgh University Students' Association</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Edinburgh University Students' Association should ensure that the University of Edinburgh recognizes and supports the International Student Centre (hereafter referred to as the ISC), as one of the few existing spaces most directly serving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The sabbs, International Engagement Coordinator and Director of Membership Support and Development have been working with the ISC and the University to come to an agreement that suits the ISC. The ISC is now able to book 		

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<p><u>and university support of the International Student Centre</u></p>	<p>international students at this university. This involves ensuring university support for the international student community by preserving the services provided by the International Student Centre.</p>	<p>our rooms in the same way that societies can and will be using the Pleasance next year for meetings. The Students' Association is also providing banking and ticketing facilities to the ISC and the International Engagement Coordinator and ISC Committee are in ongoing contact. Follow up required to agree details of how we will support them next year.</p>		
<p><u>An End to Period Poverty on Campus</u></p>	<p>1. To lobby Edinburgh University for: a) Free access to menstrual hygiene products. i. These products include but are not limited to: tampons, sanitary pads, menstrual cups. ii. That these products shall be made available in male, female, and gender neutral bathrooms. 2. To lobby The City of Edinburgh Council for: a) A provision requiring public spaces to provide menstrual hygiene products within the same parameters and utilising the same definition as in Paragraph 1. a(i) and a(ii).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Free sanitary products available at the two Advice Place locations (updated 10/2018) ● In 2018 the Scottish Government provided funding for Higher and Further Education institutions to provide free sanitary products, following years of student lobbying. (updated 10/2018) ● Free products, including pads, tampons and mooncups, are now available with a map here. (updated 10/2018) 		