

Student Council motions progress 2017-18

Appendix 2

Motions	Progress
Guarantor Scheme Revisions 26 November 2017	
Providing access to Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) resources (expenditure request) 26 November 2017	
Working towards a smoke-free university 04 December 2017	
Funding a Ticket to "Improving BAME Outcomes in Further and Higher Education" Conference (expenditure request) 25 January 2018	
Sustainable Growth in Student Numbers 25 January 2018	
Build more affordable student housing! 25 January 2018	
Support for UCU Strikes 15 February	
A ban on the sale of single-use plastics at the Students' Association 15 February	
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Supporting the Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign (expenditure request)	

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UCU Strike Solidarity (expenditure request)	
Allow all members to contribute to the running of their societies	
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I'm in admin hell, get me out of here: support for Liberation Officers	
Support Widening Participation	
Supporting Student Carers	
NUS delegates and policy mandates	

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Progress of Student Council motions 2017-18 (November 2017)

Key:  Completed  In progress  Facing difficulties

Motion	Summary (What will we do?)	Progress	Issues	Status
<p><u>Guarantor Scheme Revisions</u></p> <p>26 November 2017</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advertise the scheme <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Make the scheme highly visible and accessible to International and EU students. II. More promotion by student halls and the University. III. Include the guarantor scheme in the information pack when international and EU students are accepted to the university. 2. Revise the procedure <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Instead of requiring students to bring in a tenancy application before they guarantee the student, the university should provisionally guarantee the students prior to the student finding a flat. Once the student finds a flat, the university can check the tenancy agreement to make sure it is within the guidelines of what they will guarantee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The scheme is now more highly visible on the University's website. ● VP Welfare and VP Community met with the University and they will now provisionally guarantee students prior to finding a flat. ● Further to this they agreed that the new tenancy act signaling 'infinite' contracts for tenants wouldn't affect the University offering a guarantor scheme. 		
<p><u>Providing access to Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) resources (expenditure request)</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay £75 towards the cost of reprinting the Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) survivors' booklet to cover the number of copies we will receive. 2. The Students' Association will ensure copies of the booklet are available to students on all campuses, in particular through the Advice Place and the University's Student Counselling Service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VP Welfare liaising with ERCC to get copies of the booklet which is expected to be printed in December 2017. ● VP Welfare in contact with Student Counselling Service and the Advice Place about receiving copies of the booklet. ● VP Welfare in contact with Divinity School Representative about the potential for 		

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<p>26 November 2017</p>		<p>providing copies to be stocked in a private space in the school.</p>		
<p><u>Working towards a smoke-free university</u> 04 December 2017</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lobby the university to review its current No Smoking policy, and to restart its work on the Healthy Body Healthy Mind scheme with emphasis on smoking cessation 2. As the Students' Association, develop a smoke-free policy (ASH Scotland¹ suggest such a policy would "reduce the visibility of smoking on campus, create more smoke-free spaces for everyone to use and provide a supportive environment for those wishing to quit.") 3. As the Students' Association, review the decision to sell tobacco or e-cigarette products in official retail outlets 4. Ensure that smoking cessation services are well advertised and easily accessible for students and staff at the University of Edinburgh 5. ¹https://www.ashscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/children-young-people-and-tobacco/tobacco-free-campuses/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VPW clarified ownership of the University's smoking policy and timeline for review; VPW will engage with review of University's policy in Sept 2018. Smoking cessation service advertisements to be advocated for here. ● Research conducted by the Student Association's Research Assistant to review ASH Scotland's guidance on smoke-free campuses, detailed case studies of various other Universities' policies/initiatives, and recommendations for our future policy. This is to be shaped into a policy soon, pending consultation. ● Sale of tobacco at the Students' Association's retail outlets reviewed, and determined the majority of sales were during the Festival, making the impact on students quite low. ● October 2018 - VPW has contacted the University regarding their smoking cessation policy 		

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<p><u>Funding a Ticket to "Improving BAME Outcomes in Further and Higher Education" Conference (expenditure request)</u></p> <p>25 January 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fund a ticket for Diva Mukherji, the current BME officer and co-founder of LiberatEd, to attend the conference (£119). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed, Diva did attend. 		
<p><u>Sustainable Growth in Student Numbers</u></p> <p>25 January 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Students' Association to lobby the University to re-assess their strategy on expanding student numbers and to consider the current educational landscape and impact on existing students 2. The Students' Association to advocate for improved financial investment in key student support services to keep in line with student numbers 3. Request that the Students' Association is invited to work with the University to map out a strategic plan behind the growth of the university; to ensure that the experience of students is at the forefront 4. Mandate the Students' Association to continue their collaboration with School Representatives to solicit feedback and to assess the impacts of expansion on students 5. Mandate the Students' Association to work with online distance learners and the international community to represent their interests and requirements for support 6. Mandate the Students' Association to advocate for more space for societies and to ensure that the increase in demand is being accounted for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sabbatical Officers have met with the Principal to lobby the University against expansion and discuss the rationale behind the motion. This was a topic discussed at the Principal's Away Day in March 2018, which the Sabbatical Officers attended and discussed. A further paper/strategy from the University is anticipated and being pushed for. ● Sabbatical Officers have requested information regarding the Universities investments into services over the last 5 years ● The VP Education has met with the Representation and Democracy team to discuss a strategy for engagement and representation within the Online Distance community. ● The VP Activities & Services gathered research on society room use and the need for more space during peak hours (5-7pm on weekdays). They met with the University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is a longer term issue/topic, making it difficult to know when it is 'achieved' ● The University has been reluctant to release requested data and information on the topic ● Discussions on 'size and shape' of university are ongoing. 	

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	<p>7. Positively challenge the University to become a national leader in the recruitment and support of Widening Participation students</p>	<p>Estates department to discuss additional space, which was soundly rejected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Sabbatical Team has had a multi-pronged approach to Widening Participation in their remits, and has fed into the University's WP Strategy and Implementation Plan. The VP Education sits on the Implementation Group. 		
<p><u>Build more affordable student housing!</u></p> <p>25 January 2018</p>	<p>1. Mandate the Students' Association to ask for an increased percentage of student housing to be built by the University rather than outsourced to private companies</p> <p>2. Ask the University to ensure that newly built student housing is accessible for those with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VPC has input into the draft long-term Residential Strategy, demanding more affordability and reduced reliance on Purpose Built Student Accommodation ● Disabled access is already embedded in the Estates planning process 		
<p><u>Support for UCU Strikes</u></p> <p>15 February 2018</p>	<p>1. In solidarity, the Students' Association shall support the University and College Union (UCU) in their campaign against the proposed changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) pension scheme.</p> <p>2. Explain to students why teaching and support staff have decided to take such significant action</p> <p>3. Encourage students not to cross picket lines. Encourage students to join staff picket lines.</p> <p>4. Provide information and guidance to students about the ways they can support the strike</p> <p>5. Work with the University to ensure that strike action will have a minimal effect on students' academic experience, by, but not limited to negotiating the postponement of deadline</p> <p>6. To not work with the University to organise alternative forms of teaching to cover classes that are cancelled due to strike action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Released a News Article and a set of FAQ's to inform students of the strike and what impact this will have on them ● Sabbatical Officers have promoted the free UCU membership to PGR students ● Sabbatical Officers have created a Facebook page to educate and communicate to students and keep them informed of the support that's been organized ● Sabbatical Officers have organized coffee and refreshments to be delivered to the picket lines ● Sabbatical Officers have ordered badges, organized events for both students and staff to come together in solidarity ● Sabbatical Officers have met with the Principal to lobby the University to put 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mixed communication s with some students not realizing we're also advocating for their rights 	

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	<p>7. To use Teviot Row House and other Students' Association buildings where appropriate to host UCU members taking industrial actions for actions such as meetings and refreshments</p> <p>8. To encourage our members who are also eligible to join the UCU to become members</p> <p>9. To lobby the University senior management to put pressure on Universities UK (UUK) to negotiate with UCU</p>	<p>pressure on the Universities UK to negotiate with the UCU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VP Education to attend weekly meetings with the University to lobby for concessions so there is no negative impact on students' academic standing 		
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<p><u>A ban on the sale of bottled water, plastic bags and all other single-use plastics from Students' Association-run cafes, bars and shops</u></p> <p>15 February 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ban the sale of all bottled water from Students' Association-run outlets. The Students' Association will replace these by increasing the number of water fountains, increasing the sale of re-usable water bottles and improving signage as to where bottles can be refilled. 2. Phase out the use of plastic carrier bags and explore bio-degradable plant based alternatives that are not paper bags, as well as bags for life such as re-usable cotton bags 3. Ban the use of other single-use plastics, for example, straws and plastic cups from bars, if they cannot be easily replaced by bio-degradable alternatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Following debate at Student Council over the most effective way to reduce plastic usage, a further working group of students (including the motioner, People & Planet representatives, student researchers, Buchanan Institute and others) convened to discuss plastic-reduction measures outwith an immediate ban of water bottle sales. All parties agreed to a longer term, diversified strategy of plastic reduction, to be timelined and actioned by VP Community and VP Activities & Services. ● Further details of these actions and a Statement of Intent forthcoming. ● VP Activities and Services is working on a pledge 		
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<p><u>Material Support for Trans/Non-Binary Students (expenditure request)</u></p> <p>22 March 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use £1,500 of the Student Council budget to establish a Gender Empowerment Fund, administered by the Students' Association, which trans/non-binary students (self-identified) can use to have gender empowerment items purchased for them. 2. Set up an online form whereby students can submit orders for gender empowerment items, including chest binders, breast forms, gaffs, packers, and similar products, within reasonable prices. 3. Order the requested items at regular intervals, until all funds have been used. 4. Store these items at the Advice Place, in both George Square and KB House, for pick-up during their opening hours as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online form set up, and funds were spent within two weeks of opening for applications. Complete. 		
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<p><u>Supporting the Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign (expenditure request)</u></p> <p>22 March 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay £200 towards the costs of flyers and posters from the Scottish Irish Abortion Rights Campaign, which address the stigma around abortion and alert University of Edinburgh students to the situation in Ireland. 2. In line with the Students' Association's pro-choice position, affirm our support for the Repeal movement and the decriminalisation of abortion in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. 3. Raise awareness among the University of Edinburgh student population about the abortion referendum in the Republic of Ireland, encouraging University of Edinburgh Irish students to use their vote and ensure they are enfranchised and registered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Internal flyers were designed and created specifically advising University of Edinburgh students who were eligible to vote in the referendum 		
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<p><u>UCU Strike Solidarity (expenditure request)</u></p> <p>22 March 2018</p>	<p>1. Set aside £1,500 for practical strike solidarity by students such as printing flyers, making badges, banners, t-shirts, running events, teach-outs and workshops, sponsored posts on Facebook, and distributing refreshments to picket lines.</p>	<p>● No requests for funding were granted as deadlines for requests to identify items to spend money on were not met which was followed by the specific UCU dispute was ending.</p>		
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<p><u>Allow all members to contribute to the running of their societies</u></p> <p>22 March 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lobby Edinburgh University Students' Association Activities Executive to change Activities policy to allow all members to contribute to the running of their societies through voting in General Meetings and standing for non-executive committee positions. 2. Lobby Edinburgh University Students' Association to change the compulsory clauses in the society constitution template as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Amend 4.1.b from "Any full student member of the Society shall be entitled to sit on the Committee." to "Any member of the Society shall be entitled to sit on the Committee." b. Amend 4.1.c from "The Office Bearers must be members of the Society and a matriculated student of Edinburgh University." to "All Office Bearers must be members of the Society." c. Amend 4.10.f from "All members who are matriculated students of the University of Edinburgh shall be entitled to stand and to vote in elections." to "All members shall be entitled to stand and to vote in elections." d. Amend 4.10.d from "Only fully-matriculated students are entitled to vote at the AGM." to "All members are entitled to vote at the AGM." e. Introduce new clause 4.3.d: "The Executive Office Bearers must be members of the Society and matriculated students of the University of Edinburgh." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given that the Activities Regulations sit with the Activities Executive, not with Student Council, this motion triggered an Emergency Activities Executive meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the compulsory clauses in the Regulations. This meeting was held on April 12th with most representatives in attendance. ● The Activities Executive voted to reject the proposed amendments. 	
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<p><u>Ensuring clearer election rules regarding society involvement</u></p> <p>22 March 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request that the election rules are clarified to ensure that candidates and student societies are aware of what support and resources can be granted during the campaigning period. 2. Ensure that societies are clear on the rules around endorsing candidates, and provide a required process by which societies can endorse candidates, including that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Endorsement can only be asked for once the campaigning period begins; b. Endorsement can only occur through a committee vote with over 50% of the committee in favour of endorsing a candidate, and all candidates must be considered by the committee equally; c. The society must inform the Students' Association of their endorsement to ensure no rules are broken in the endorsement process. d. Clearly state that societies and student groups are unable to provide financial assistance to campaigns in addition to the candidate's publicity budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Governance Sub-committee looked at the proposals in October 2018 to see how they could be integrated and included in the Elections Regulations. Ultimately it was considered that there were several challenges in incorporating the motion as a whole into the regulations. ● It was noted that other Students' Unions referenced in the motion ran both Sports clubs and societies so could apply a blanket approach to the rules; this would be challenging for Edinburgh University Students' Association as the Sports Union is separate. ● It was considered that it was not within the remit of Student Council to pass decisions relating to the conduct of societies. ● Changes were made to the regulations in order to reinforce that although societies may endorse candidates, it should be expressly clear that no financial support should be used by that society in the promotion or endorsement of any candidate. ● Activities Exec will observe the 2019 March elections and recommend to the Governance Sub-committee ways in which society endorsements of candidates can be workable in the future. ● Election regulations have been updated to address many of the concerns students had with them. ● Communications will be sent out to all societies ahead of the elections advising 	
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		them of how they are able to support candidates.		
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<p><u>I'm in admin hell, get me out of here: support for Liberation Officers</u></p> <p>22 March 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To mandate the Association Executive to review the support that the Students' Association currently provides to Liberation Officers. 2. Following from this review, to mandate the Association Executive to seek to build upon existing structures and potentially create new ones to improve support for Liberation Officers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sabbatical Team met with the Liberation Officers to discuss additional support needs. VP Welfare has collated and communicated this to relevant people, and a series of changes will be made accordingly. ● Further resources have been committed to help with admin related work, which will improve support for Liberation Officers. 		
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<p><u>Support Widening Participation</u></p> <p>22 March 2018</p>	<p>Lobby the University to...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the proportion of Widening Participation (WP) student at the University 2. Give more support while WP student are here in the most important areas, such as affordable accommodation, subsidized extra-curricular access, covering unexpected course costs and affordable transport 3. Actively work to combat elitism and classism within the University's social context 4. Make all WP students known to the University, not just UK students, developing indicators and data beyond UK scholarship receipt 5. Create and promote initiatives which support WP student success after graduating, including but not limited to access to employment and mentorship <p>Students' Association to...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the University to pursue a bolder Widening Participation strategy 2. Pursue the expansion and sustainability of the Activities & Sports Participation Grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VP Education sits on relevant University committees for the creation, and now implementation, of the University's Widening Participation Strategy. ● VP Community and President have fed into the draft University Residential Strategy to ensure a great proportion of affordable accommodation in University halls ● VP Community and President pushed for a year-long £1 Trial at King's Buildings for the bus, and continue to push for cheaper and more frequent transport options. ● VP Activities & Services has increased the Activities & Sports Participation Grant, intended to subsidize WP students' engagement in extra-curriculars, to £25,000 per year over the next 3 years. ● President engaged with the University's Mentorship Platform, pushing for a focus on WP students. 	<p>- This will also be long-term work, so unclear when 'complete'</p>	
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<p><u>Supporting Student Carers</u></p> <p>22 March 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Campaign for the university to provide bursaries for student carers. 2. Campaign for the University to better use the data it collects on the number of student carers to more effectively provide support, and to include them in its widening participation effort. 3. The University has now employed someone within their Widening Participation team to act as a named contact for student carers at the University and we would also like this person to undertake the following: administering the above bursaries and collecting data on student carers, as well as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Providing information and advice to student carers. b. Working with the university to ensure their policies and practices are supportive and compliant to the needs of student carers. c. Organising social and networking events for student carers, and ensuring Students' Association events and societies cater to student carers are open as far as possible to them. d. Organising taster days or appointments for prospective carers to receive information, however, noting that a strong first step would be drop-in sessions during existing days. 2. Lobbying the university to complete the Checklist for Going higher for student carers: Recognition Award launched by the Carers trust Scotland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VP Welfare and Student Carers' Rep approached Development and Alumni regarding financing for Student Carers' bursary ● In October 2018, the University Widening Participation Team contacted all students who had identified themselves as being carers with information about support available. ● The University is convening a working group to explore the student journey of carers and ensure they are supported at every step. ● The Students' Association's Student Carers' Rep is running monthly drop-ins, supported by the Students' Association and local carers' organisations. ● The Students' Association is in discussions with the University's Widening Participation team regarding the possibility of running specific sessions on Open Days to outline support and answer questions. ● The University is beginning the process of completing the Going Higher award, supported by the Students' Association. 	
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	<p>3. Lobby the Scottish government, whom now have the powers over Carers' Allowance in Scotland, and the Westminster government to make Carers' Allowance available to students in full time education.</p>			
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<p><u>NUS delegates and policy mandates</u></p> <p>22 March 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To require that the elected NUS delegates for each conference choose from amongst themselves one to act as the Delegation Leader, who acts to look out for the welfare and safeguarding of delegates as well as ensuring clear communication for the effective operation of the delegation at conference 2. To mandate this Delegation Leader to ensure that all Edinburgh University Students' Association delegates are aware of the motions on which Edinburgh University Students' Association has policy 3. To require that The Association be represented at any compositing meetings by the delegation leader or, failing that, an individual chosen by the Association Executive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choosing a Delegation Leader will be a part of future delegation training for NUS Conferences. 		
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