Accountability

PAPER A

Report from Jonny Ross-Tatam, EUSA President

Summary

Lots of work done protecting and increasing spending on bursary support for low income students, on investments in student spaces, student mental health and the democracy referendum. But still lots more work to do with expanding bursaries for lower income students, increased funding for the counselling service, campaigning for affordable housing and implementing our democracy changes.

Bursaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Protecting Bursaries and Fairer Funding for low income students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Achievements | • Despite public funding cuts, helped protect bursary levels for low income students. With increased numbers of recipients, this amounted to an increased spend of £2 million in undergraduate bursaries.  
• This meant the university spent a record amount on undergraduate bursaries, £8.5 million up from £6.5 million last year.  
• There was also an increase in £0.5 million in Postgraduate bursaries for low income students.  
• Urte and I have lobbied local MSPs of all parties on the need for more maintenance grants for low income students and SAAS loan support over the summer months. |
| Issues: | Whilst we are pleased to have protected the bursaries from any cuts, they need to be expanded. Particularly for students with household earnings of £20k-£30k, for whom bursary support drops off quite dramatically.  
Pushing for this will be a priority for the next couple of months and I hope the next Sabbatical team continue to work on this. |
### Student Spaces

**Summary**

*Investment in Student spaces*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Over 400 more study spaces in the Main Library</strong> for the next year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>£0.5 million investment in Kings Buildings House</strong> for better food and social space.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>£100k in the Wee Red Bar.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>£1.5 million investment in teaching space.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>£1million investment in schools (particularly KB) to upgrade social space.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Issues:**

- Need to make the Teviot extension, new investments in the Student Centre and the Pleasance Re-development work for students.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing

**Summary**

*Supporting student mental health and wellbeing*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>£10k Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund</strong>, which has funded a variety of student projects from mental health awareness, to mindfulness courses, to an expansion of Nightline’s digital messaging service.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness Week</strong>. Over 30 events from EUSA, societies, Counselling Service, the Sports Union and other groups and launched the #Let’sTalk campaign.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Mental health issues to be part of Peer Support Leaders training.</strong> Peer Support has between 500-600 leaders and impacts over 7000 students. Mental health issues, active listening, looking out for friends and signposting to appropriate support is now part of their training.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Mandatory mental health first aid training for all 1300 personal tutors.</strong> The Senior Vice-Principal Teaching and Learning and the Assistant Principal Academic Support have made a commitment to achieving this within the next year and a half, starting from now.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Issues:**

- We also need to secure extra investment in the University Counselling Service for more counselling staff and space to meet the rising demand from students.
### University Counselling Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th><em>Increase investment in the University Counselling Service</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Achievements | Helped secure a £160k investment in new student and staff counselling space at Moray House (walking distance from Central campus). This will be ready by the Summer.  

Worked with the Counselling service on their bid (of £76k) for more counsellors to fill the new space provided by Moray House.  

Supporting a student-led campaign for more funding for the counselling service, led by our Welfare Campaign Organisers. |
| Issues: | The Counselling service is trying to cope with an unprecedented rise in student demand, up by 45% this year.  

It desperately needs more space and counsellors to meet the rising demand from students.  

The Planning Round will not be complete until the end of May/beginning of June. |

### Recording Lectures Online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th><em>Getting Lectures Recorded Online</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td>A bid has been made in the upcoming Planning Round and is supported by the Senior Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues:</td>
<td>We are currently amidst negotiations for the Planning Round, which go on until June.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Student Deportations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Protesting against student deportations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td>Following the news of the potential deportation of Strathclyde student and NUS Scotland Refugee &amp; Asylum Officer, Lord Apetsi, we campaigned against this terrible decision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campaigning from student union officers, through social media and lobbying MPs, from across the country helped #SaveLord for the time being. Local MP Ian Murray was particularly helpful here: Lord Apetsi is not even from his constituency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues:</td>
<td>The Government’s xenophobic immigration policy is still in place, so we are always at risk of future student deportations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Democracy Referendum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Democracy Referendum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td>After consulting with over 5000 students in surveys and focus groups we launched our proposals for changes to EUSA’s democracy in the referendum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q1 passed with over 3,195 Yes votes and with 79.7% of the vote (4005 votes in total). Clear student support for these proposals to open up EUSA’s democracy and make it more representative for the majority of students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These changes include a new Vice President Welfare, paid Liberation Officers, online voting for contentious issues at Student Council, paid College reps (including for Kings Buildings).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q2 (proposing a name change) did not pass, but that was not as important.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Issues:
These need to be implemented over the next year in time for next year’s elections.

### Student Social Enterprises

**Summary**

*Supporting student social enterprises and getting the University to make social impact investments*

**Achievements**

- Secured funding for a social enterprise intern to do consultation and make proposals.
- Held a student social enterprise showcase event, involving FreshSight, SHRUB, Knack, ENACTUS and Food Sharing.
- Many made clear proposals for more space from the University and ability to book rooms.

**Issues:**

The report along with the proposals for the University’s contribution to social finance and student social enterprise is set to be released within the next week.

### Report from Urte Macikene, Vice President (Services)

**Scottish Parliament Elections**

**Summary**

Scottish Parliament Elections

**Achievements**

- In the run-up to the Scottish Elections, I have been leading on organising EUSA’s campaign for students. I have organized two candidates’ debates with candidates from all parties except UKIP. One was themed around education and housing, the other around welfare and housing. We asked all candidates challenging questions about EUSA’s five key issues in the elections, which are:
  - Summer student funding support
  - Tuition fee and living cost loans for all postgraduates
  - Maintenance grants for lowest income students
- SAAS support for asylum seekers
- Rent controls/regulation of private student housing

- I went to the NUS Scotland ‘Shaping Scotland’s Future’ demo on Parliament, where we lobbied MSPs on the day Parliament dissolved. I have had one-on-one meetings with several local constituency candidates. I have been inviting reps from relevant campaigns along to these meetings. I have been writing blogs and pieces for publication in various local outlets on issues which are crucial to students ahead of the elections. See post on my blog here: http://bit.ly/1S8kqyS

Next steps:

I have further meetings with candidates scheduled in the next few weeks. I will continue writing for as many media outlets as possible. We have some voter registration stalls scheduled in next few weeks.

Prevent

Summary

Prevent Legislation

Achievements

We organized an open meeting and Q&A session for all students with Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary Student Experience, who is responsible for implementing the Prevent policy in the university (on 22nd March). We have been lobbying and pressuring the university to issue a statement stating they are opposed to the Prevent policy as an institution, as several over universities around the country have done. This is under active consideration by university management.

Next steps:

We will continue to keep the pressure on the University to issue a statement opposing the policy. We have had trouble locating a lawyer who would be able to give us further legal advice on our room bookings policy and its implementation. However, we appear to have a lead and will continue pursuing this course of action.

Conflict Minerals

Summary

Conflict minerals policy

Achievements

The conflict minerals policy I have been pushing forwards all year has passed! The University of Edinburgh is now the first in the UK to have an explicit policy on conflict minerals. This means that at all quarterly supplier meetings, the University will ask suppliers for concrete evidence of what they are doing to audit for conflict minerals. When new contracts with
suppliers are set up, these questions will also be incorporated and influence the choice of supplier where possible. The University will also pressure procurement consortia we are members of to adopt similar policies.

Next steps:

Keep raising awareness of the issue and ensure transparency in the implementation of the policy – I have been asking for a commitment for an annual report on how the suppliers have responded.

---

Central Area Redevelopment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Central Area Redevelopment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Meetings every two weeks with designers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Went to Glasgow to view other buildings the architects had designed and feedback on what kinds of spaces and designs would be preferable for EUSA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Continuing to do internal coping work to inform the designers of requirements of the new building for EUSA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next steps:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Visits to Exeter and London to view other student centers in similar styles and multi-purpose uses to what the new building and refurbishment will be</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Meetings with architects continue. In next month or so need to present concrete requirements of any new spaces EUSA would like to see, and what explicit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

EUSA Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>EUSA Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We have been finalizing the EUSA budget for 2016-2017 over the past few weeks and consulting with various staff and the Finance Committee on its evolutions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Issues |
| EUSA has lost £50k of turnover from disruption from the building works in Bristo Sq, and scheduled to lose a further £100k of turnover next year. The |
cost implications of the new National Living Wage (new minimum wage for over-25s) is costing EUSA £90,000. Changes to the USS pension and national insurance contributions is costing eusa an estimated further £95,000/yr. Additional new costs include further uplift to the standard living wage for those under 25., cost of living rises to staff, and salary for several new staff members without whom the functions of the organization were suffering. Taken together, the cost implication is £265k in lost turnover/additional spending from last year. The budget is still being finalized, but it is highly likely next year’s budget will be a deficit budget for EUSA. This will still leave us in a position of having net positive assets, as we currently have a significant positive cash balance. We are continuing to negotiate with the university for our final block grant, and expect a small uplift which will cover a small part, but certainly not all of the costs. We need to develop a long-term strategy to ensure we can absorb these costs in the long term.

Affordable Housing

Summary

Affordable housing

Achievements

- Have launched the EUSA housing survey, which will be a significant source of data
- Spending time doing outreach on campus getting people to fill out the survey
- Further research on levels of current housing costs, working on a report with this
- Lobbying Council and MSPs for regulation of private purpose built student housing

Next steps

- Continue pushing the survey – hoping for over 500 responses to be a good sample
- Comprehensive report including data from survey, desk research, and petition to be compiled by mid-April
- Meetings scheduled with key university management to discuss the report and lobby for an explicit approach to affordable housing
## EUSA Referendum/Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>EUSA referendum/elections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Achievements | You will all be aware by now of the results of the EUSA referendum, but just in case:  
Q1 Passed with 79% of the vote – woop!  
Q2 Fell with 65% of the vote  
We will therefore remain called EUSA, but will be taking forwards recommendations from Q1 and the democracy review. These changes will not be implemented immediately and we will be working up a plan for them over the next few months.  
The total number of students voting in the elections and referendum together was 7077, a 20% increase on people voting last year. The turnout in the candidates’ election was just only 70 less than last year, despite a significant drop in sabbatical nominations this year (which is unfortunate).  
A significant amount of time since the last Student Council has been taken up with managing comms for the referendum, responding to student concerns, organising the debate, etc. During the week of the election, I spent most of my time campaigning for the referendum, supporting candidates through events and trainings, door-knocking encouraging people to vote generally in the election, wrote a blog post Q&A with candidates, etc. |
| Next steps | Work on drawing up a plan for implementing the proposals from the democracy review (Q1 in referendum) |

## Conferences/National Outreach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Conferences/national outreach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td>• Went to the NUS International Students’ Conference in Milton Keynes, where I presented on a panel about student activism on asylum seekers. I talked about our work with the Equal Access campaign securing home fees for asylum seekers and further scholarships and funding for asylum seekers, as well as our campaign lobbying the government of asylum seeker access to SAAS funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Went to NUS Scotland conference in Dundee, where over the course of two days I contributed to discussion and debate setting the direction of NUS Scotland in the next year, and supporting motions EUSA submitted (democratising institutions, affiliating to students for cooperation).

Spoke for a university lecture on policy implementation and a panel at a sector meeting about the divestment campaign.

Next steps
Will be going to NUS National Conference on 19th-21st April

Other
As this is the last Student Council and I won’t get to report on here is an update on further plans for what I will be working on for the next two months until the end of my term which haven’t been included in any of the boxes above:

- Continuing to lobby to get a student representative on the investment committee and supporting the divestment campaign, including getting clarity on the current investment position following the updated ethical investment policy
- Really focusing on the affordable housing campaign and getting some student action around it in addition to the research and report cited above
- Traveling to the US for an international student leader conference (paid for by the University, not EUSA, before you get concerned)
- Taking a week’s holiday and visiting my hometown in the US for the first time in two years
  Recruiting a new commercial director and festival manager
- Voter registration stalls for the EU referendum
- Working on a good handover for the next sabbs, incorporating feedback from other reps (particularly liberation groups) and building networks for some of my campaigns to be continued

Thanks so much for your engagement with Student Council this year, good luck with exams, and have a great summer!

---

Report from Andy Peel, Vice President (Societies & Activities)

Summary

I have been on annual leave for 2 weeks so unfortunately there isn’t as much to update as usual. However, the updates I do have include important changes to the personal tutor system, a resounding mandate for change in the EUSA referendum and updates on the anti-sexual harassment campaign I have been working on. This is my final sabbatical report and so I hope you
I feel I have made a significant contribution to Edinburgh student’s lives! I would also like to wish Jess Husbands, your VPSA-elect, the best of luck in her term ahead.

**Improving student mental health**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>I have been working closely with the University to improve support for students suffering from mental ill health over my year in office.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Achievements | • Mental health issues to be part of Peer Support Leaders training. Peer Support has between 500-600 leaders and impacts over 7000 students. Mental health issues, active listening, looking out for friends and signposting to appropriate support is now part of their training.  
  • Mandatory mental health first aid training for all 1300 personal tutors. The Senior Vice-Principal Teaching and Learning and the Assistant Principal Academic Support have made a commitment to achieving this within the next year and a half, starting from now.  
  • Working with the Student Counselling Service on their bid (£76k) for more counsellors to fill the new space provided by Moray House.  
  • The ‘Thematic Review of Mental Health Service Provision’ to influence the soon to be produced ‘Student Mental Health Strategy’, recently took place. EUSA was able to make some significant contributions to the thematic review through Jess Killeen, EUSA Disability and Mental Wellbeing Convener. We are awaiting the outcomes and they will be shared with Council in due course. |

**Issues:**

**Overwhelming mandate for change in the EUSA Referendum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>We successfully engaged 4005 students in a referendum about democracy and leadership (!) and the result gives a strong mandate for the proposed changes to be made.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td>With 79.7% of the 4005 students voting in favour of the proposed changes, we are now in a very strong position to lobby the University for the necessary funding to make the changes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Anti- Sexual Harassment Campaign

### Summary

The University, EUSA and the Sports Union are collaborating on a joint anti sexual harassment campaign. The campaign will have a soft launch in April/May and a hard launch to new students in September. EUSA has made significant contributions to shaping the campaign and I’m very pleased with the direction in which it is heading.

### Achievements

- I have attended two presentations from the agency coordinating the campaign. The visuals we have selected to go forward are very powerful and eye catching and I hope they will help make the campaign unique, memorable and as effective as possible.

- The campaign will be coupled with training for staff and students on bystander intervention, to empower students to intervene should they witness any type of sexual harassment. The Advice Place and other EUSA staff are designing the training to be rolled out.

- There will be more detailed artwork produced in the coming weeks, in time for the soft launch in late April/May. Keep your eyes peeled as the campaign launches!

## Report from Imogen Wilson, Vice President (Academic Affairs)

### Elections and Referendum

### Summary

Elections and Referendum

### Achievements

- Question 1 of our referendum passed with a 79% Majority! We are incredibly proud and happy with this result, and excited about preparing for the changes in the coming months. We are also particularly chuffed to have had over 4000 students vote in a referendum that was about “democracy changes”.

- A note on engagement: Though in our election for candidates we were 70 votes shy of last year’s total, the total number of students who voted in the elections and/or the referendum (number of single voters) was over 7000, and a 20% increase on last year. A great success!
Also, congratulations to all new reps, and welcome if this is your first council!

Issues:

Question 2 of the referendum didn’t pass. Oh well.

Changes to Special Circumstances and Coursework Extensions

Summary

Changes to Special Circumstances and Coursework Extensions

Achievements

The final changes to special circumstances and extensions were approved at the Curriculum and Student Progression Committee on March 17, for implementation in September for the start of the next academic year. The main changes are as follows:

Special Circumstances

- The revised policy has additional guidance on mental health issues
- The list of examples of circumstances that might and might not be accepted under the SC policy have been expanded to include new things like: Being a victim of a crime, a long-term or chronic mental health condition, which has recently worsened temporarily or permanently, significant short-term mental ill-health, military conflict or natural disaster.
- There are some new acceptable forms of evidence, such as written accounts from university staff, written account from the student’s family or friends who have directly witnessed the circumstances, and most importantly, students own word for circumstances lasting up to seven days.
- The Special Circumstances Policy has also been reorganized to make it easier to read

Coursework Extensions

- For the first time there is a university-wide coursework extension policy, as part of the taught assessment regulations.
- All students will be able to apply for an extension for up to 7 days on coursework (this will still be at the discretion of the academic)
- This can be done by self-certification and will not require medical evidence.
- At the moment you have up to 5 days (losing 5 marks per day) before your essay gets 0 and can’t be submitted, this will be extended to 7 days after the hand-in date.
- There is a revised list of ‘good reasons for coursework extension’ which is broadly in line with the changes to special circumstances.

I will shortly be publishing a blog about all of these changes that will go into more detail, which I will post on my facebook account too www.facebook/eusavpacademicaffairs

Issues:

Only one – we were also pushing for a universal online form through EUCLID on this, but unfortunately the university’s systems cannot currently support this, so SC applications will still be locally administered. The review group were on board with moving it all online as a development, and it will likely be implemented in the next few years, just not alongside all the other new changes

Lectures Online

Summary

Lectures Online – Rolling out ‘lecture capture’ across all schools so big lectures are recorded and uploaded to Learn or equivalent after class to be used as revision

Achievements

At the May Learning and Teaching Committee there will be a decision and approval of an implementation plan for lecture capture over the next couple of years. It’s likely that it will be implemented from September 2017. This is a big win! But I don’t want to celebrate yet as it isn’t confirmed… but look out for my facebook updates and blog posts for more info on this as this is the last student council.

Issues:

- I don’t have a commitment yet from the uni that they will fix the systems already in place, like CaptureEd, which is now failing.
- This is all taking a long time!

PhD Tutor Pay and Support

Summary

PhD Tutor Pay and Support

Achievements

- I’ve been meeting with quite a few different PhD tutors from different schools (as in PhD students who are employed as tutors for undergraduate students) in the College of Humanities and Social Science over the last few weeks.
One of the main issues is that it’s hard to make demands on the university because everyone’s pay and experience is so different from school to school, and literally nobody (even in the college or centrally in university management) is fully aware of the differences.

I’ve contacted the administration of each school separately asking them several questions (for example, asking if their tutors are paid for preparation time, marking, feedback, office hours, or attending the course lectures) and have started compiling a spreadsheet with all the information.

I’m attending Researcher Experience Committee on April 12 and will present my initial findings then, from which I’m hoping a course of action from the uni will then be decided.

It’s good to finally have recognition from the university that this is a serious issue, and I hope to have further news of progress.

Some PhD students in the school of Languages, Literatures and Cultures are having a particularly difficult time, and are going to publish an open letter of their complaints which will be signed by other PhD students in the school, so look out for that!

Issues:
Still waiting to hear back from staff in some schools in the college. I’m experiencing some resistance from staff, and also I don’t have a way of checking their statements as I don’t have student contacts in all schools.

Teaching Awards

Summary
Teaching Awards

Achievements
- The Teaching Awards have now closed with 2,256 nominations. Thank you to all who nominated.
- A while ago we won some funding to hire someone who could analyze last year’s results, and he has now finished coding them and given us some initial insights.
- Unsurprisingly the three most common nodes in his analysis are engagement, approachability and effort. We will be making several presentations to university staff later in the year with a more detailed breakdown of ‘what good teaching looks like’ according to students.
- This will give us some really powerful data to call upon when we are trying to enact change. For example, we often talk about approachability and access to staff being a huge issue for students, but until now have never had any hard evidence to back it up.
Issues:

We had fewer nominations than last year, but this was anticipated, as we had slightly less time (almost a month less) overall for nominations, as we had to make room for our democracy survey earlier in the year and other EUSA projects.

---

Liberating the Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberating the Curriculum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Like I said last month, I’ve designed a portion of tutor inductions which is all about equality and diversity, and how to be inclusive in tutorials and seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- I’m taking this to the next Learning and Teaching Committee in May, with the hope of it being rolled out this September to all new tutors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- I’ve also started a conversation with staff about doing a course audit of schools in the College of Humanities and Social Science which would mean asking all course organisers a question along the lines of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Does this course take full account of the School's and University's commitment to promoting Equality and Diversity? Indicate briefly the ways in which you have included, where appropriate, a sufficiently diverse range of voices (e.g. of different genders, ethnic backgrounds, etc) and issues (e.g. relating to marginalised or under-represented groups) in the course content and readings.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- It's too early to say what the outcomes will be, but they did a review like that in the Divinity School and I believe it’s been successful, so there is hope!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Issues:

I won’t be able to get the course audit off the ground before I finish, so it will be reliant on Patrick taking over the project, which I hope he will!

---

Academic Year Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Year Dates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The university has recognized that it’s not fair to have some courses taught in semester one, but examined in semester two, and that something will have to change.

**HOWEVER**

- Initially, we wanted to try and extend the length of first semester, to start a few days earlier in order to create more time for revision and exams.
- This proved not possible because of the festival, and because the admission of students from the rest of the UK (because of A level results) and international students due to visa restrictions.
- The university will be conducting a consultation during April, which I urge you all to take part in! It will be a very short survey of 3-5 minutes.
- One of the possible outcomes is moving having exams in January instead of December, which has some positives and negatives.
- This model would include starting a little later at the start of the academic year, and having a much longer Christmas break, with exams at the end of January.

I have been very clear from the start that all students should have a chance to feed into the decision, so please do complete the survey and have your say. There are some very clear pedagogical advantages for moving the exam period, but ultimately students and staff must be broadly comfortable with it.

**Issues:**

- The timescale for consulting is reasonably short, but it will definitely be well advertised at least.

---

### Scottish Parliament Elections

**Summary**

**Achievements**

- We have been meeting with MSP candidates and talking to them about our EUSA manifesto, to make sure students’ asks are on the agenda of all the main parties in the lead up to them releasing their final election manifestos.
- Last week we hosted a debate on education and funding, and this week one on student housing and welfare, both with representatives from Scottish Labour, RISE, Scottish Greens, Scottish Lib Dems, Scottish Conservatives and the SNP.
After a huge voter registration push back in February, we are back on stalls leading up to the deadline on April 16 to make sure as many students as possible are registered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The timing of this election is making it difficult to campaign effectively for the EU Referendum, which happens only a few weeks afterwards. However, we are trying to combine our voter registration outreach from the Scottish Parliament elections with the EU to raise awareness on campus.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prevent**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Prevent Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- We hosted an open briefing and Q&amp;A about Prevent which was attended by Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary of the University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- It was a good chance to air concerns, and some good questions were asked and answered, but unfortunately the event was extremely poorly attended, despite us making a Facebook event and inviting everyone we thought would like to come along with plenty of warning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Shuwanna, the BME Liberation Group Convenor, started a petition urging the university to publicly oppose Prevent. Please all sign the petition! From our discussions, it's clearly unlikely that the university will consider releasing a statement without significant student pressure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The petition already has over 100 signatures, but we are looking for over 300 at least. It can be found here - <a href="http://bit.ly/1oiRw73">http://bit.ly/1oiRw73</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- The event was very poorly attended, and the University will now need extra convincing that this is a big issue for students.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>