



Student Council

Thursday 2nd March 2017, 6-8 pm, Teviot Debating Hall

MEETING SUMMARY

Overview

<u>Motion</u>	<u>Result</u>
Call for increased Edinburgh University Students' Association and university support of the International Student Centre	Passed
Elected positions for Postgraduate Research and Postgraduate Taught Representatives (Extraordinary Motion)	Passed
An End to Period Poverty on Campus	Passed

1. Welcome and overview

Welcome and overview of the agenda by Jude Sabha, Student Council Facilitator at Edinburgh University Students' Association. Overview of changes to democracy regulations as a result of the democracy review.

2. Accountability

Reports from the Sabbatical Officers were given and questioned from the floor.

a) Report from Jess Husbands, Students' Association Vice President Societies & Activities

- **No questions.**

Report Passes: For: 80, Against: 0, Abstain: 6

b) Report from Patrick Garratt, Students' Association Vice President Academic Affairs

- **Question:** Why should we not abstain from a motion?
- **Answer:** Abstentions count as a no vote in our regulations.

Report Passes: For: 81.5, Against: 0, Abstain: 6

c) Report by Jenna Kelly, Students' Association Vice President Services



- **No questions.**

Report Passes: For: 81.5, Against: 0, Abstain: 6

d) Report from Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson, Students' Association President

- **Question:** On the voter registration motion, it calls on the university to automatically register all first year students going into halls by ticking a box, but it appears like the students' association are just encouraging students to register
- **Answer:** It would be impossible to automatically do it, but we will provide a link upon first year student registration to the students' association website where you can easily sign up to vote.

Report Passes: For: 80, Against: 0, Abstain: 6

3. Motions

i) Call for increased Edinburgh University Students' Association and university support of the International Student Centre

Motion request (extracted from motion for background information purposes):

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 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.

Discussion of motion:

- **Speech for:** The ISC are located at 22 Buccleuch place, and have a lounge for students to come into during the week. We also put on events for international students. The university said they need the property back, which puts us in a difficult position to continue providing our services. A university that prides itself on being a global institution should be continuing support for international students. If this motion passes, it will show increased support for expanding ISC services for students.
- **Question:** Out of curiosity, were there any other options given to you when the university approached you?
- **Answer:** We were offered another option by Edinburgh Global but the university directly has not offered us another place.
- **Question:** What would happen if you lost the space?



- **Answer:** We are made up of an 8-person committee and 30 lounge volunteers. Without the lounge we won't have the volunteers, who we need to keep the space going. We have been doing this for 20 years and the lounge is testament to what it means for international students to have a space. The international student barometer is at 96% satisfaction, demonstrating this is an important service. If international students cannot fit into societies, but still need a physical space, they can fall through the cracks. In the past this place has served as somewhere for students to learn English and receive other support and this has been highlighted in our surveys.
- **Question:** What would you like specifically from the sabbatical officers and elected reps?
- **Answer:** The ideal would be to keep the space longer - we were told we need to be out by April 7th. It would be good to hold onto the space for any transitional period, and to be able to have a space to transition into. We have been there for 20 years and not much has changed, so it may be an opportunity to have a new space that is more accessible and visible than the previous one. You can see more in the report for what exactly we would like to do, but essentially this motion is to try and show the university that we need these spaces. The aim is just to create more spaces provided by students for students, and this is something we should be increasing because it has shown to work – students know other student's situations.
- **Question:** Are there any other student groups that have a similar space?
- **Answer:** The Edinburgh Women's group, also on Buccleuch place, was the other space offered to us. But these offer very different services to us, and while we did try to work with them to share the space, it doesn't make a lot of sense for us to take over their space for their specific needs. There is EUSA global but again we centre all the work we do around having this physical space. If we wanted to just do trips or events, we could do that but we have built this community over years, and while students can go to other things it is important to have this space for students to remain connected.

No opposing speaker.

Motion passes: For: 94 (96.5%), Against: 1.5 (1.5%), Abstain: 2 (2%)

ii) Elected positions for Postgraduate Research and Postgraduate Taught Representatives (Extraordinary Motion)

Motion request (extracted from motion for background information purposes):

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”;

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

Discussion of motion:

- **Speech for:** We have been doing a lot of work with PhD students who tutor. The committees that represent their interests have no postgraduates sitting on them. PhD students are not represented very well. The association is predominantly seen as an undergraduate association, and this needs to change.
- **Comment:** I would like to reiterate that postgraduates feel that they do not have a lot of representation. This is a really good motion and I would urge everyone to vote for it.
- **Comment:** I am the postgraduate convenor and right now I represent taught and research postgraduates. This motion is good to recognise that there is a difference between these students.
- **Comment:** I am the postgraduate convenor for SPS, and as a research student we are responsible for a heavy load of undergraduate teaching. The more support that we have as postgraduates benefits the entire university.
- **Question:** How will you make sure that those reps represent people in both central campus and Kings' Buildings?
- **Answer:** As a result of the referendum that was passed last year, there will now be an undergraduate and postgraduate rep for every single school. Just having two more postgrad reps will not solve the Kings' solution, so we are hoping to continue working on this. This will be just a start, and the aim is to have all the postgraduate school reps talking to the postgraduate rep.
- **Comment:** This is my fifth year as a postgraduate at the university. At the end of this academic year we are going to lose all undergraduate representation. This is the first step for greater postgraduate representation across the entire university.



- **Question:** What are the exact constitutional words being changed?
- **Answer:** We are introducing Postgraduate taught and Postgraduate research representatives
- **Question:** If it does pass at this council, does it need to pass at the next one?
- **Answer:** Yes, and if it doesn't pass at that one, we will try again.

No opposing speaker.

Motion passed: For: 86 (99%), Against: 0, Abstain: 1 (1%)

iii) An End to Period Poverty on Campus

Motion request (extracted from motion for background information purposes):

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).

Discussion of motion:

- **Speech for:** This motion comes out of two necessities. The first is to destigmatise menstrual sanitation, and the second is to provide better access to the products that are needed. We should have sanitary products in bathrooms across the university. We should also lobby councillors to ensure they have sanitary products across the whole city.
- **Comment:** I really appreciate this motion because even though we have free sanitary products at the advice place, but it neglects people at KB. Why just because we are born as women do we need to pay for what we need.
- **Comment:** The advice place at KB also provides sanitary products!
- **Summation:** Just to reiterate the cross-gender necessity of this. It is not just women who menstruate, and this is about supporting people regardless of how much money they have.



Motion passed: For: 84 (93.5%), Against: 1.5 (1.5%), Abstain: 4.5 (5%)

Meeting close.

Turnout:

Total number of ballots from students: 39

Total number of ballots from elected representatives: 39

Total number of ballots: 78