



Student Council

Thursday 26th October 2017, 6-8 pm, Teviot Debating Hall

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and overview

Welcome and overview of the agenda by Emma van Rooijen, Student Council Facilitator at Edinburgh University Students' Association.

2. Accountability

Reports from the Sabbatical Officers were given and questions were taken from the floor.

a) Report from Kai O'Doherty, Students' Association Vice President Activities and Services

- **No questions.**

Report Passes 95.5% in favour:

For: 63.5 votes, Against: 3 votes, Abstain: 0 votes

b) Report from Oliver Glick, Students' Association Vice President Community

- **No questions.**

Report Passes 97.7% in favour:

For: 65 votes, Against: 1.5 votes, Abstain: 0 votes

c) Report from Patrick Kilduff, Students' Association President

- **Question 1 (from Geosciences School Rep):** What is the student center?
- **Answer 1:** It is investment in this building (Teviot) and the creation of an adjacent building as the HUB for student services.
- **Question 2 (from Engineering School Rep):** About the Alumni Mentoring platform, couldn't the university make better use of LinkedIn than making its own one?
- **Answer 2:** This platform allows you to link up with people who have the same experience and background as you, who have been approved by the University and leads to actual



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relationships. Alumni are able to state the parameters they want to exist in under the platform e.g. choosing to mentor two people.

- **Question 3 (from Chemistry School Rep):** Are there investments in a similar student center for Kings?
- **Answer 3:** There is a project for KB but it will take quite a while to get things drawn up. We are making sure to involve reps from KB.

Report Passes 88.5% in favour:

For: 57.5 votes, Against: 7.5 votes, Abstain: 0 votes

d) Report from Bobi Archer, Students' Association Vice President Education

- **Question 1 (from Part-time Students' Rep):** Will the University be looking at participation for international students?
- **Answer 1:** The University is focusing on widening participation for Scottish students from low-income backgrounds because these are the students that it receives its Scottish Government funding for, but I am looking to push for students from elsewhere in the UK and international too.
- **Question 2 (from Dance, Music and Theatre Activities Rep):** Are you trying to abolish paper hand-ins completely or create a joint policy?
- **Answer 2:** You would still be able to hand in your assignment on paper but it's just to provide an alternative format for people who are part-time or have jobs. This is really to stretch out the policy created by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- **Question 3 (from Student Carers' Rep):** Will you be including carers and home-educated students in widening participation?
- **Answer 3:** Yes, it does look at under-represented groups such as carers, especially when talking about bursaries, and the university is adopting the same definitions as SAAS. I am not sure about non-educated students as a specific category, but the widening range of definitions should encompass that.

Report Passes 93.2% in favour:

For: 62 (%), Against: 4.5 (%), Abstain: 0 (%)

e) Report from Esther Dominy, Students' Association Vice President Welfare

- **Question 1 (from HCA School Rep):** I've been speaking to students about Mental health and wellbeing week and are keen to see this progress beyond the week – how will you do something similar next semester?
- **Answer 1:** Awareness weeks are good but there also needs to be lasting change and what matters is how the University



supports students e.g. looking at PTs. Amnesty will be running a campaign.

- **Question 2 (from Vijay, NUS Delegate):** We won the promise from the University to provide mental health training for all PTs by September 2018, but it seems they have moved that back to September 2019. Have you run into any issues and are you willing to facilitate pressure on the University to deliver on this promise in good time?
- **Answer 2:** There are people in the University who are delivering training but the issue has been more with take-up at the school-level. There are some capacity issues and there was a promise made that should be delivered and I am supportive of that. PhD supervisors also need training.
- **Question 3 (Engineering School Rep):** What is being organised in KB?
- **Answer 3:** I would have to go back and double-check but we're really trying to work with staff in schools and student reps so it can be student-led. What we are trying to do is have regular outreach at each of the schools.

Report Passes 88.2% in favour:

For: 56 (%), Against: 5 (%), Abstain: 2 (%)

3. Motions

a) Guarantor Scheme Revisions

- **Question 1:** how do you prove that you've paid your rent on time to the university?
- **Answer 1:** the university recommends that you bring in your first year's reference from the previous landlord, as well as bank statements.
- **Question 2:** can bank statements function the same way?
- **Answer 2:** they can't show that you paid your previous rent on time but does demonstrate income.
- **Question 3:** Is it possible to fund up to 17,000 students?
- **Answer 3:** I can say that there's no way that we can convince the university if there aren't even 100 people applying, once this happens we can lobby the university.
- **Question 4:** Are there any technical / legal aspects?
- **Answer 4:** The university is still providing requirements and they can still back out so it hasn't changed.
- **Question 5 (Law School Rep):** some agencies don't like overseas guarantors, have there been any questions about how they feel about the university?
- **Answer 5:** the landlords don't even know about the scheme, so the advertising needs to be improved.



- **Question 6 (Business School Rep):** have you tried to market this towards agencies?
- **Answer 6:** I agree that is a really good point and something we will look into.
- **Question 7 (Part-time Students' Rep):** can you tell us about overall advertising and the effect this would have on applications for student accommodation at the university?
- **Answer 7:** for this scheme, it is mostly directed to second+ years, most of whom go towards private flats, so this is mostly directed to those who would have to pay high deposits or rent.
- **Question 8:** what can the Students' Association do?
- **Answer 8 (Oli Glick):** part of the motion is to allow us to advertise the scheme and give us the ability to lobby the university – it is a fantastic start for getting the university to work on the scheme.

Statements in favour/comments: useful for incoming international students. We need to be competitive. International students don't know about the guarantor scheme at all. It is available to most students (international, EU and UK students in exceptional circumstances). Would like to see it opened up to low-income students. Would be useful to include a clause about Brexit. Needs to be extended to postgrads.

Motion Passes 100% in favour:

For: 66.5 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstain: 0 votes

4. Expenditure Requests

b) Expenditure Request: accessing Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre resources.

- **Question 1:** how will students be provided with these booklets – will it be at the advice place or to actual students?
- **Answer 1:** they will be placed in the Advice Place and student counselling services so they can be looked at there.
- **Question 2 (from Divinity School Rep):** how do you plan to bring anonymity to this sensitive topic to places that are not catered by the advice place?
- **Answer 2:** there is a commitment for the Students' Association to share this, and there is a digital copy.
- **Question 3:** is it available online and is there a link on the advice place that connects to that?
- **Answer 3:** there is an online resources and it is a good idea for this to be available on the Advice Place website too.
- **Question 4:** is £75 enough to cover all campuses?
- **Answer 4:** it is a good question and was made in discussion with Esther and the Advice Place. There was a fear of the booklet being in surplus or going out of date, we would renew it later.



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- **Question 5 (PPLS School Rep):** how much does it cost to print each booklet?
- **Answer 5:** £1 per booklet.

Statements in favour: Advice Place and counselling service operate it across most campuses. It is a really timely thing to do.

Expenditure Request Passes 100% in favour:
For: 40 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstain: 0 votes

5. AOB

Consultation on the New Student Centre is November 21st, 2017.

Meeting close

Total number of ballots from students: 5
Total number of ballots from elected representatives: 41
Total number of ballots: 46