Student Council

Thursday 3rd December 2015, 6 – 8 pm, Teviot Debating Hall

MEETING SUMMARY

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1. Welcome and overview

Welcome and overview of the agenda by Imogen Wilson, Vice President (Academic Affairs)

2. Democracy Review

A workshop was led by NUS Scotland, looking into EUSA’s democratic structures. EUSA is conducting a review of its democratic structures based on feedback from students. The information collected from the Student Council session will feed into this review. Findings from the review will be presented at a future Student Council.

3. Accountability

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

a) Report from Jonny Ross-Tatam, EUSA President

Report Passes: For 31, Against 1, Abstain 8.

b) Report from Imogen Wilson, Vice President Academic Affairs

Report Passes: For 33, Against 0, Abstain 6

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

4. Affiliations

EUSA’s affiliations were proposed and questioned.

a) National Union of Students

Affiliation confirmed: For 55, Against 6, Abstain 5

b) Stop Climate Change Chaos

Affiliation confirmed: For 58, Against 2, Abstain 6

c) National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts

Affiliation confirmed: For 42, Against 16, Abstain 8

d) Votes at 16 Coalition

Affiliation confirmed: For 48, Against 10, Abstain 8

5. Motions

a) Winning for Students in the Scottish Elections

Motion proposed by Kirsty Haigh

Details of motion:

1. Mandate the sabbatical officers to lead a EUSA campaign to get all the parties to have universal living grants, rent controls and that only one doctor will be required to give consent for a woman to have an abortion in Scotland in their manifestos. for the 2016 Scottish elections.
2. This campaign will start immediately.
3. This campaign will utilise a range of tactics to achieve its aim- operating both within MSP surgeries and on the streets outside. Where politicians and political parties are not complying with our aims we will escalate our actions from letter writing, asking nicely and publicly shaming to stunts, demos and other such direct action.

Opposed by Margaret Palmer.
Motion Passed: For 45, Against 17, Abstain 5.

b) Support the Equal Access Campaign

Motion proposed by Matthew Nicholson

Details of motion:

The Student Council mandates EUSA to:
1. Endorse the aims and principles of the Equal Access Campaign in calling on Edinburgh University to:
   i) waive or cover tuition fees for asylum seekers;
   ii) establish bursaries to cover the basic living costs of asylum seeker students at the University;
   iii) take adequate steps to make prospective asylum seekers aware of this opportunity.
2. Lobby the University to meet the aims of the Equal Access Campaign.
3. Pressure the University to present a transparent and accessible policy on this issue.

Motion opposed from the floor.

Motion passed: For 54, Against 9, Abstain 4.

c) Conflict Minerals

Motion proposed by Urte Macikene on behalf of the Association Exec

Details of motion:

1. Fully support the University’s efforts to encourage procurement consortia who manage purchasing frameworks agreements to continue to improve their practices to eradicate conflict minerals, including recommending questions to be asked of suppliers in tenders
2. Raise awareness among students and staff regarding small-scale and personal purchases of goods that may contain conflict minerals
3. Encourage engagement on conflict minerals through teaching, projects, and events
4. In the instance of EUSA purchasing electronics from outside of a university purchasing agreement, to seek external verification of the company’s efforts to combat conflict minerals (i.e. from company reports, external reports such as The Enough Project company rankings, and questions to company representatives where possible)
5. If making a purchase of electronics outside of the university’s purchasing agreements, EUSA will preference - when possible within budget - companies with greater evidence of tracing, auditing, and certification of conflict minerals in their supply chain

No opposing speaker,
Motion passed: For 57, Against 3, Abstain 7.

d) **EUSA: Stop Taking the Piss**

Motion proposed by Nate Abbots

Details of motion:

1. Immediately re-designate all single occupancy bathroom and changing facilities as gender neutral.
2. Immediately re-designate two-thirds of EUSA venue toilets as gender neutral spaces without any additional modification. These toilets should be reasonably distributed throughout all EUSA buildings, and an equal or fewer number of women's toilets should be re-designated than men's. Single occupancy facilities are not counted towards the two-thirds.
3. Gender neutral toilets shall be clearly labelled and signposted, and absolutely must not use binary signage that would indicate "both men and women" which is exclusionary and offensive to those who are neither. Toilets should instead be labelled by their contents, e.g. "Stalls and Urinals"; "Stalls Only", "Stalls, Showers and Changing Facilities" - or iconography with equivalent indications.
4. In venues where gendered or gender-neutral toilets are equipped with changing facilities, or condom or sanitary product dispensaries, such toilets should include both dispensaries. Re-equipping should be completed by the end of the academic year.
5. The sabbatical team must participate in an educational “Trans 101” event to educate themselves in appropriate terminology.
6. The sabbatical team, in consultation with the trans caucus, shall produce a campaign against gender policing and harassment in toilets. The sabbatical team shall engage in campaigning with the university to re-designate two-thirds of bathrooms as gender neutral throughout all of the university facilities, ensuring that every building has at least one.
7. The sabbatical team shall engage with the CSE and encourage them to provide gender neutral toilets, baby changing facilities and changing rooms.
8. Establish and publicise a strict zero tolerance policy on gendered harassment and "gender policing" in all bathrooms and changing facilities.
9. Accessible toilets are not an appropriate substitute for gender neutral facilities, but there must be gender neutral accessible facilities for disabled trans individuals.

No opposing speaker.

Motion passed: For 48, Against 14, Abstain 5.