



## Student Council

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 6-8 pm, Teviot Debating Hall

### MEETING SUMMARY

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#### Overview

<u>Motion</u>	<u>Result</u>
Elected positions for Postgraduate Research and Postgraduate Taught Representatives (Extraordinary Motion)	Passed
Reaffirming our commitment to a Conflict-Free Campus	Passed
Edinburgh University Students' Association Commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day	Passed
In memory of Gordon Aikman	Passed
Defend EU and International students! (Expenditure request)	Passed

#### 1. Welcome and overview

*Welcome and overview of the agenda by Jude Sabha, Student Council Facilitator at Edinburgh University Students' Association.*

#### 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

- **Question:** What else is happening with Sexcetera?
- **Answer:** Two events, one called biscuits and BDSM, one called pleasure and pizza, and the hatters ball on Saturday raising money for Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre

**Report Passes:** For: 75 (92%), Against: 0 (0%), Abstain: 6.5 (8%)

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

- **No questions.**



**Report Passes:** For: 76 (92.1%), Against: 0 (0%), Abstain: 6.5 (7.9%)

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

- **No questions.**

**Report Passes:** For: 76 (92.1%), Against: 0 (0%), Abstain: 6.5 (7.9%)

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

- **Question:** Regarding that we will no longer have numbered emails in September, what about for those who change their names at university?
- **Answer:** That's a very good point, will feed back to IS on that.
- **Question:** What was the best thing about being president?
- **Answer:** Working with the students. As an undergraduate you don't get exposed to the range of students here, you often get stuck in silos. There's 37,000 students here and it's great to get out and see what they're doing

**Report Passes:** For: 75 (92%), Against: 0 (0%), Abstain: 6.5 (8%)

3. **Affiliations – see final papers for further detail**

**Affiliations Pass:** For: 52.5 (86.1%), Against: 5 (8.2%), Abstain: 3.5 (5.7%)

4. **Motions**

i) **Elected positions for Postgraduate Research and Postgraduate Taught University 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:** This passed overwhelmingly at the last student council. Postgraduates need more representation, and English unions are better at this than we are. This motion creates two new roles, and passing it tonight is very important for increasing representation.
- **Question:** Where do the professional doctorate programmes fit in?
- **Answer:** If you want to lobby around issues for PostDoc training, this will be for the new PGR rep. Postgrad roles in the past have almost always been taken up by postgrad taught students, so postdoc concerns will be addressed by the PGR rep, who we imagine will be a postdoc.

No opposing speaker.

**Motion passes:** For: 69.5 (100%), Against: 0 (0%), Abstain: 0 (0%)

## ii) Reaffirming our commitment to a Conflict-Free Campus

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

1. To affiliate and publicise affiliation to the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative, a project of the Enough Project's raise Hope for Congo campaign.
2. To support and facilitate the organisation of awareness events on the issue where possible or relevant.
3. To educate students on the issue of Conflict Minerals, on University and Students' Association policy of procurement on this issue.
4. To encourage students at the University of Edinburgh to get involved the Conflict-free Campus Initiative and promote ethical consumerism amongst the student body.
5. To continue to uphold the Students' Association Conflict Minerals policy (passed at student council 3/12/15) and lobby to ensure the University to does the same.

Discussion of motion:

- **Speech for:** This university has been leading the way with its conflict minerals policy from 2013. I am part of the conflict-free campus initiative, today I'm asking for affiliation to this, which is



completely free. This affiliation will help people to recognise what we are doing, and it will support the conflict free campus initiative

- **Question:** Our policy on conflict minerals hasn't lapsed yet, why are we taking this to student council again?
- **Answer:** The reason I took it to council again is because it becomes harder to implement policy if other associations don't implement policy – we need to send a signal. It is important for the university to affiliate to this to show the difference and support the initiative.

No opposing speaker.

**Motion passed:** For: 60 (90.9%), Against: 2.5 (3.8%), Abstain: 3.5 (5.3%)

### iii) Edinburgh University Students' Association Commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day

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

1. Edinburgh University Students' Associations (EUSA) will recognise Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) on its official calendar.
2. EUSA will support the activities that take place on Holocaust Memorial Day, by coordinating with the Jewish Society and other relevant societies in terms of speakers, stalls and other activities.
3. EUSA will publicise the events surrounding Holocaust Memorial Day.
4. EUSA will light Teviot – and any other Students' Association building possible – up purple every 27th January to raise awareness for Holocaust Memorial Day

Discussion of motion:

- **Speech for:** Holocaust memorial day has been a feature of international communities since 2000, where people come together and make a memorial for every genocide that has ever happened, from Rwanda to Armenia. I want to thank the sabbs for sharing it on social media. I think it's important we mandate the sabbs for next year to make it an official part of the calendar
- **Question:** Are there any standard activities that come along with holocaust memorial day or should the students' association ask the students involved what they want to do?
- **Answer:** It depends on the students and what they want to do. We had a candle lighting service earlier this year, we had talks from historians in previous years.



No opposing speaker.

**Motion passed:** For: 62.5 (93.3%), Against: 0 (0%), Abstain: 4.5 (6.7%)

**iv) In memory of Gordon Aikman**

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

1. Edinburgh University Students' Association will lobby the University of Edinburgh to rename a lecture theatre after Gordon Aikman

Discussion of motion:

- **Speech for:** Gordon Aikman was a former VPSA about 10 years ago and then went on to work in policy and other areas. In 2010 he was diagnosed with motor neurone disease. Rather than being limited by this he made the most of his time left, he raised over £500,000 for MND research and ensured NHS Scotland provide nurses for all MND patients. He died on the 13th February this year at age 31. We have a lot of rooms for chancellors that no one knows at the university, it's important that we name a room after someone who made a really positive contribution to society
- **Comment:** As Gabriel said, a lot of the buildings (e.g. Hugh Robson) are named after principals and chancellors, who are all straight male white men, and it's also important to remember that Gordon Aikman was part of the LGBT community
- **Comment:** I'd really like to thank Gabriel for bringing this to council, and for all his motions at student council this year

No opposing speaker.

**Motion passed:** For: 62 (92.5%), Against: 0 (0%), Abstain: 5 (7.5%)

**v) Defend EU and International students! (Expenditure request)**

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

1. Allocate £500 in funding for the 'Another Europe is Possible - Edinburgh' group of students to run a campaign around students' rights

Discussion of motion:

- **Speech for:** As we all know, article 50 was triggered the other day. This has created an uncertain future for all those we study with. While we have confirmation that tuition fees for EU students will be



covered by the Scottish government for 2018/9, we have no confirmation about their situations after that. This money will be to campaign for people's rights beyond this. Last but not least, as this is the last expenditure request of the year, it's important to use up the remaining student council budget.

- **Question:** Could you elaborate more on what this group will do to help EU students?
- **Answer:** Holding more meetings and figuring out what we can do e.g. working with other university groups, lobbying the Scottish parliament to guarantee rights. Lobbying has shown to work e.g. for excluding international students on migration data
- **Question:** What exactly are you using the £500 for?
- **Answer:** This money will only be used for the purposes of Edinburgh. The money will be used to defend the rights of EU students. There are a lot of speakers who we can pay their travel costs, or travel costs for conferences on the topic. It will also be used for publicity and awareness.
- **Question:** How did you come to the figure of £500 exactly?
- **Answer:** We had an exact figure for funding campaigning for the referendum last year. We used trains for £90, we bought flyers for £100. We want to go off what we did last time, and have the same ongoing campaign over the summer as well.
- **Summation:** This isn't just for EU students here, it relates to UK students wanting to study abroad. This really affects everyone.

No opposing speaker.

**Motion passed:** For: 23 (71.9%), Against: 4 (12.5%), Abstain: 5 (15.6%)

## 5. Societies

Societies council report passes: For: 57.5 (85.8%), Against: 4.5 (6.7%), Abstain: 5 (7.5%)

**Meeting close.**

### **Turnout:**

Total number of ballots from students: 20

Total number of ballots from elected representatives: 33

Total number of ballots: 53

**Thank you to all who came to student council this year and for all your contributions!**