Student Council
Thursday 31 March 2016, 6 – 8 pm, Teviot Debating Hall

MEETING SUMMARY

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1. Improving Student Member Communications

Prior to Student Council there was an event giving students the opportunity to hear from Emma Robertson-Werner, EUSA’s Marketing and Communications Manager, for an update on our work on improving student member communications. The session covered recent campaigns and future plans.

2. Welcome and overview

Welcome and overview of the agenda by Urte Macikene, EUSA Vice President (Services)
3. Accountability

Reports from the Sabbatical Officers were given and questioned from the floor. Due to the number of members present, an exact count was not taken.

a) Report from Jonny Ross-Tatam, EUSA President
   Report Passes

b) Report by Urte Macikene, Vice President (Services)
   Report Passes

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

d) Report from Imogen Wilson, Vice President Academic Affairs
   Report Passes

4. Motions

i. Learning Profiles aren’t decorative

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. Liaise with the university to implement a system that ensures Personal Tutors and Course Organises check off and sign that they have read each individual adjustment in their student’s learning profile, similar to how students have to check off a list of no plagiarism policies before accessing their courses on Learn.
2. Liaise with the university to ensure each school has a support officer dedicated to ensuring that learning arrangements are being implemented in the school and in individual courses that students with amended learning profiles are enrolled in.
3. This will be put in place by September 2016 with required follow up by the VPAA and information on it must be included in their first report to Student Council.
4. That EUSA hold a policy of no confidence in the university until all student learning adjustments are met.

No opposing speaker

No comments.
Motion Passed: For 248, Against 10, Abstain 129

ii. Student Carers

Speech in favour.

Details of Motion:

This union resolves:

1. To approach the university about implementing a tick box on EUCLID for those who “are currently or have ever taken care of a friend or family member, on an unpaid basis, who has a mental or physical illness, disability or addiction”.
2. To approach the university Widening Access/Participation team and ask them to consider student carers outside of Edinburgh in addition to those within Edinburgh currently recognised through the LEAPS programme.
3. For the Students’ Union Welfare Officer to work in collaboration with NUS Scotland, local carer’s charities and the carers trust ‘going higher’ campaign as well as Carers Trust Scotland and add their support to their campaign.
4. To work alongside the Widening Access/Participation team to evaluate relevant policies and modify them as required to better support student carers.
5. To formally include carers’ needs in the training of student support coordinators and eventually also personal tutors.
6. To establish a carers’ fund through development and alumni.
7. To encourage the university to access currently available government funds to support carers in higher education.
8. Encourage awareness in student and staff bodies through poster campaigns and events during welcome week.

No opposing speaker.

No comments.

Motion passed: For 295, Against 5, Abstain 102.

iii. EUSA to endorse a Remain vote in the EU Referendum

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. Officially advocating for a Remain vote in the upcoming referendum, whilst maintaining respect for the minority of students who are opposed to EU Membership.
2. To partner with, endorse and support Edinburgh’s Students for Europe campaign for the UK to stay in the EU for the run-up to the national referendum on Britain’s EU membership on 23 June 2016.
3. To mandate the sabbs to publicly issue a statement, on behalf of Edinburgh University Students’ Association, supporting the United Kingdom’s continued membership in the European Union.
4. To organise voter registration events and outreach encouraging students to register to vote and vote in the EU referendum.
5. To participate in any NUS actions or campaigns to stay in the EU.
6. Try to maintain a positive campaign that focuses not only on the drawbacks of leaving, but the benefits of remaining inside the European Union.

Opposing speech.

Comments from the floor.

Summation from proposer.

**Motion passed:** For 220, Against 78, Abstain 98.

iv. **Principal Must Resign**

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. Under current management the university has consistently been regarded as having the worst rates of student satisfaction in the UK.
2. The University, according to their response to an FOI request in November, has had a real terms cut to funding building accessibility, with the amount dedicated to making buildings accessible to all students and staff being left at a stagnant £90,000 since 2010. With inflation this becomes a cut of roughly £17,000 pounds
3. Current university management has found it fit to spend over £30 million on a vanity project in Bristo Square, as well as starting other capital projects.
4. It took the university over a year and a two month long email campaign to get an accessible toilet door fixed in the main library.
5. Under the university’s current administration the Disability Service has been left powerless to enforce most adjustments the university is required to make under the Equality Act.

Opposing speech.

Comments from the floor.

Summation by proposer.

**Motion fell:** For 96, Against 102, Abstain 190

v. **Improve awareness of and access to Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre**

Speech in favour.
Details of motion:

1. Mandate EUSA to ensure correct and clearly signposted information about the Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) in Freshers pack, by:
   a) Ensuring that the ERCC is on any list of service providers and a flyer for ERCC is in the information pack all Freshers receive
   b) Ensuring that the correct information is given in the Freshers Survival Guide and other lists about the services that the ERCC provides and ensuring that it is made clear that the ERCC provides support for women and members of the trans community who have experienced sexual violence, sexual harassment and rape

2. Mandate EUSA to ensure that physical copies of the ERCC’s survivor’s booklet are easily accessible to students on all campuses (notably the Advice Place and Counselling Service) by:
   a) Ordering copies of this booklet from the ERCC to be received before the start of Freshers Week 2016
   b) Ensuring that these booklets are available on all campuses at all times
   c) Fully promoting the availability of this resource to all students and staff, e.g. via online communication

3. Mandate the Sabbatical Officers to lobby the University to update the Dignity and Respect Policy to make explicit reference to ‘Sexual harassment’ in:
   a) Paragraph 1.2: in the following section: “... inappropriate behaviour, including any form of discrimination, harassment and bullying is handled appropriately.”
   b) Paragraph 2: in the following section: “... elimination of discrimination; harassment and victimisation...”
   c) Paragraph 5: in the following section: “Potential breaches of this policy can include, but are not limited to: • Harassment • Bullying • Discrimination • Inappropriate remarks or behaviour”

4. Mandate the Sabbatical Officers to lobby the University to introduce a Zero Tolerance Policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence, along the lines of the current EUSA Zero Tolerance Policy.

No opposing speaker.

Comments from the floor.

Motion passed: For 361, Against 9, Abstain 68.

vi. Boycott, Divest and Sanction

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. Ensure EUSA follows and enacts the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign. To boycott is to target products, companies and institutions that profit from or are implicated in, the violation of Palestinian rights.
2. To divest is to target corporations complicit in the violation of Palestinian human rights, as enshrined in the Geneva Convention, and ensure that investments or pension funds are not used to finance such companies.

3. To call for sanctions is to ask the global community to recognise Israel’s violations of international law and to act accordingly as they do to other member states of the United Nations.

4. Ensure that products sold by EUSA are not grown or produced within occupied Palestinian territories and that services are not provided by companies which are complicit in the occupation of Palestinian land, the blockade of Gaza, the apartheid system within the declared state of Israel and ongoing Israeli state violence, human rights abuses and violations of international law.

5. Support the call from Palestinian civil society of an academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions, which are implicated in the perpetuation of Israeli occupation.

6. Resist any action that gives political or economic support to violations of international law by the State of Israel and complicit companies.

7. Endorse the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against the State of Israel until such time as it ends the occupation, complies with international law, recognises the fundamental rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality and respects the Palestinian Right of Return as stipulated in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution #194. [http://bdsmovement.net/call]

8. Mandate the sabbatical officers to write a statement regarding our commitment to BDS to be publicised and permanently displayed on EUSA’s website in an area accessible to students and the public.

9. Mandate sabbatical officers to work with the Black and Minority Ethnic liberation group, as well as Edinburgh University Students for Justice in Palestine to lobby and campaign for the university to also commit to BDS, to organise meetings with and to advocate for BDS within the Policy and Resources Committee and other relevant committees and members of university staff.

Opposing speech.

2nd Round of Speeches:

Speech in favour.
Opposing speech.

3rd Round of Speeches:

Speech in favour.
Opposing speech.

Comments from the floor.

Summation by appointee of proposer.

**Motion passed:** For 249, Against 153, Abstain 22
vii. **Fund the Student Counselling Service.**

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. EUSA will lobby the University to increase funding to the Student Counselling Service, pushing for additional counsellors and space in order to improve the support offered to students.
2. EUSA will support the campaign and petition “Edinburgh University: Fund the Student Counselling Service”, and use its own resources and social media presence to promote this.

No opposing speaker.

No comments

**Motion passed:** For 276, Against 7, Abstain 57

viii. **Improving the Elections Regulations for Self-Defining Groups**

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. Add the attached proposed changes (see Appendix A) to the election regulations effective immediately to improve them with regards to the election of self-defining positions. This will clarify how to deal with liberation group-specific complaints, increase support from relevant staff members, and put the election regulations in line with the democracy regulations on the subject of self-definition.
2. Mandate the sabbatical officers, returning officers, and liberation and student group conveners to investigate together the most appropriate way to ensure that only self-defining people vote and stand for liberation positions in EUSA elections and by-elections, with this being implemented by the March 2017 elections. This investigation is to be led explicitly by the liberation and student group conveners.
3. Mandate that there is better outreach and education from EUSA, particularly through typical EUSA marketing channels like emails and social media pages, regarding the liberation groups’ activities, what they are and what they do, why self-definition and autonomy are vital to the liberation groups, and what self-definition is in this context, with this outreach work being liberation group-led.

No opposing speaker.

Comments from the floor.

**Motion fell:** For 166, Against 33, Abstain 135
ix. **Campaigning against PREVENT (expenditure request)**

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. Give £200 to the Students Not Suspects group to fund this campaign against Prevent. This will be used for banner making, leaflets and other campaign materials and expenses.

No opposing speaker.

No comments.

**Motion passed:** For 21, Against 0, Abstain 3

x. **A 24/7 Main Library**

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. For the EUSA Sabbatical Officers to lobby the University to open part of the Main Library to be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in time for the next academic year (September 2016).
2. For the EUSA President to write a letter on behalf of the Students' Association to the Head of Information Services and the Head of Estates, declaring support for this.
3. This includes ensuring the Main Library is properly resourced with extra staffing and support costs.
4. To push for a 24/7 Main Library to be included in the University's current 'Central Area Building Opening Hours' review, which is set to be concluded by June.
5. For the 24/7 access to be reviewed a year after implementation, to ensure that the study space that is open to students, through the night, is proportionate to the numbers of students that want to use it.

No opposing speaker.

Comments from the floor.

**Motion passed:** For 301, Against 26, Abstain 36

xi. **Divest, please...**

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:
1. Mandate EUSA to release a statement which publicly condemns the University of Edinburgh’s continued failure to fully divest from fossil fuels and arms companies, here defined as all companies which derive at least 5% of their profits from fossil fuel extraction or armaments manufacture.

2. Mandate EUSA to call for the University of Edinburgh to make a public statement indicating from which investments they have divested as a result of their recent changes in investment policy.

3. Mandate EUSA to send out a press release emphasising its opposition to the University of Edinburgh’s continued investment in fossil fuels and arms companies.

4. Mandate the incoming sabbatical officers to lobby and campaign for the University of Edinburgh to divest from fossil fuels and arms companies.

5. Mandate the incoming sabbatical officers to lobby and campaign for the University of Edinburgh to establish a EUSA-elected position for a student representative to sit on the University of Edinburgh’s investment committee.

6. Mandate EUSA to continue to support People & Planet’s long-standing divestment campaign.

No opposing speaker

Statement from university staff read out.

Comments from the floor.

Summation from proposer.

**Motion passed:** For 181, Against 55, Abstain 106

xii. **Divest, please (expenditure request)**

   Speech in favour.

   Details of motion:

   1. Give £200 to People & Planet to continue to run their divestment campaign. This will be used for banner making, leaflets and other campaign materials and expenses.

   No opposing speaker.

   No comments.

   **Motion passed:** For 16, Against 7, Abstain 1

xiii. **Accessibility at Student Council**

   Speech in favour.

   Details of motion:
1. To provide water at every Student Council without exception.
2. To aim for an access break target of at least 5 minutes per hour of student council, which may be condensed into a single break as required – so a 2 hour meeting would have at least a 10 minute intermission in the middle.
3. To provide whenever practically possible, sufficient facilities for making tea and coffee during meetings as well as other refreshments like food or snacks.
4. To be mandated to provide such refreshments for meetings predicted to last over an hour and a half in length.

No opposing speaker.

Comments from the floor.

Summation by proposer.

**Motion passed:** For 193, Against 28, Abstain 111

xiv. **EXTRAORDINARY MOTION: Trans, Non-Binary and Intersex Liberation Group**

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. Create an autonomous Trans, Non-binary & Intersex Liberation Group within EUSA’s democratic structure.
2. Create a position, elected in EUSA’s general election, for the convener of this group.
3. Legislate, in line with EUSA’s democracy regulations, that the membership of this group should be self-defining trans, non-binary & intersex students.
4. Provide this group with an annual budget in line with that of the other liberation groups.
5. Provide the convener of this group with a salary in line with that of the other liberation convenors.

No opposing speaker.

Comments from the floor.

Summation from proposer.

**Motion fell:** For 165, Against 38, Abstain 126

xv. **EXTRAORDINARY MOTION: Building Liberation into Referendum Changes**

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:
1. The sabbatical team shall investigate and publish a report on the impact of all referendum changes on trans students.
2. Guarantee that a representative from each liberation group is part of the student panel interviewing the student council facilitator.
3. The sabbatical team shall conduct an investigation into the possibility of introducing liberation quotas for future sabbatical elections.
4. If weighted voting comes into effect, increase the voting power of liberation convenors, including the Equal Opportunities and Liberation Officer, at student council from 1.5 to 2.5 votes.

No opposing speaker.

Comments from the floor.

Summation by proposer.

Motion fell: For 113, Against 43, Abstain 167

xvi. EXTRAORDINARY MOTION: Paid Liberation Convenors

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. EUSA shall pay all liberation convenors elected for academic year 2016/17 onwards a part-time salary — this includes the most recently elected liberation convenors.

No opposing speaker.

Comments from the floor.

Summation from proposer.

Motion fell: For 127, Against 46, Abstain 153

xvii. Another Europe is possible (expenditure request)

Speech in favour.

Details of motion:

1. Allocate £500 in funding for the 'Another Europe is Possible - Edinburgh' group of students for the production of materials and travel costs for speakers

No opposing speaker.

Comments from the floor.

Summation from proposer:
Motion passed: For 13, Against 6, Abstain 5