Student Council
Thursday 1st October 2015, 6 – 8 pm, Teviot Debating Hall

MEETING SUMMARY

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1. Welcome and overview

Welcome and overview of the agenda by Urte Macikene, Vice President (Services)

2. Accountability

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

a) Report from Jonny Ross-Tatum, EUSA President

Report Passes: For 31, Against 0, Abstain 0.

b) Report from Imogen Wilson, Vice President Academic Affairs

Report Passes: For 32, Against 0, Abstain 0
c) Report from Andy Peel, Vice President (Societies & Activities)

**Report Passes:** For 32, Against 0, Abstain 0.

d) Report by Urte Macikene, Vice President (Services)

**Report Passes:** For 33, Against 0, Abstain 1

3. Motions

a) **Supporting Disabled Students in Politics**

Motion proposed by Hannah Bettsworth on behalf of Disability and Mental
Wellbeing Liberation Group

Details of motion:

1. Join the One in Five Scotland Campaign and sign up to their charter
2. Encourage and support disabled students to get involved in student politics
3. Ensure that meetings are held in accessible locations and documents are
   available in accessible formats
4. Ask students about their individual needs and act on such information to
   ensure inclusion
5. Make sure organisational tasks for office bearers and representatives are well
   defined while remaining flexible enough for individual members to use their
   skills effectively
6. Increase awareness and understanding of issues affecting disabled people
   and strive to include and empower all members

No opposing speaker.

**Motion Passed:** For 42, Against 0, Abstain 0.

b) **Funding for the Accessible Edinburgh campaign (expenditure)**

Motion proposed by Arran Byers, Equal Opps & Liberation Convenor

Details of motion:

1. The Equal Opportunities and Liberation Convener with the Liberation and
   Section Groups approaches the Student Council for £200 (quote from EUSA
   marketing team) to fund this new campaign detailed below.

2. We will launch a campaign across the university about accessibility in all its
   different forms. The campaign is looking to capture student opinions on the
   matter during November and December.
3. The campaign will utilise social media, postcards and out-reach work to reach students and get their views on all forms of accessibility. The money requested would help build this part of the campaign to make it as engaging, thought provoking and usable as possible.

4. Raise awareness of the different barriers in university, physical or figurative, that hamper accessibility.

5. Compile the feedback into a set of objectives for the Liberation Groups and Section Groups next semester.

No opposing speaker

**Motion passed:** For 16, Against 0, Abstain 2.

c) **For EUSA to support People and Planet's 'Divest the Rest' campaign**

Motion proposed by Ellie Jones

Details of motion:

1. Support People and Planet's Divest the Rest campaign
2. Give space for us to display some posters with information about the campaign around campus
3. Hang up a banner outside the Potterow office

Motion opposed by Tobias Seger, Law Undergraduate Vice Convenor

**Motion passed:** For 32, Against 4, Abstain 3.

d) **For EUSA to support Divest the Rest by giving £150 to the campaign (expenditure)**

Motion proposed by Ellie Jones

Details of motion:

1. We are asking that EUSA contributes £150 towards the production of resources for the Divest the Rest campaign, the aim of which is to push Edinburgh University to withdraw its investments from the fossil fuel and arms industries

Motion opposed by Tobias Seger, Law Undergraduate Vice Convenor

**Motion passed:** For 17, Against 2, Abstain 3.

a. **Oppose the Cutting of Maintenance Grants; Expand Bursary Provision**
Motion proposed by Laura Craig, External Campaign Organiser

Details of Motion:

1. Mandate EUSA to lobby and campaign for the University to maintain and further expand bursary provision to students especially for those who currently cannot access such support, for example, EU, international, mature and part-time students as well as those who do not receive enough funding from the UK government.
2. Oppose and campaign against the UK government’s cutting of maintenance grants for RUK students.

No opposing speaker

**Motion Passed**: For 33, Against 1, Abstain 1

e) **Backing both the Make Renting Right and the Living Rent Campaigns**

Motion proposed by Laura Craig, External Campaign Organiser

Details of Motion:

1. EUSA will back both the Make Renting Right and the Living Rents campaigns.
2. Work to promote both these campaigns.

Motion opposed by Hannah Bettsworth

**Motion Passed**: For 30, Against 4, Abstain 2

f) **You can’t be what you can’t see: implementing diversity in student spaces**

Motion proposed by Rachel Ram, LGBT+ Liberation Group Convener

Details of Motion:

1. Relocate the portraits outside of the debating hall. There are 87 in total, 86 white men and one black man.
2. Replace with more recent images of EUSA sabbatical officers, guest speakers, or diverse role models.

No opposing speaker

**Motion Passed**: For 30, Against 8, Abstain 3

g) **Right to Education Campaign (expenditure)**

Motion proposed by Ryan Swan

Details of Motion:
1. EUSA is twinned with the students union of Birzeit University, and Students for Justice in Palestine aim to strengthen this relationship.

2. Hosting students from Birzeit University to discuss the situation regarding fundamental human rights and education under military occupation can help improve our ties with the university.

3. Media coverage of the deteriorating situation in Palestine is increasing, and this event can provide an alternative to mainstream coverage by hosting people who have experienced the situation first hand.

No opposing speaker

Motion Fell: For 7, Against 8, Abstain 6

h) African Development Week (expenditure)

Motion proposed by Edinburgh University Debates Union, the Edinburgh Political Union, and the Buchanan Institute

Details of Motion:

1) We are asking for £300 to offset the cost of two return plane tickets from Kenya to Edinburgh for the Chief and a female member of a Kenyan Maasai tribe.

2) We have already successfully raised funds from two smaller grants and this funding would bring us to our target amount.

No opposing speaker

Motion Passed: For 14, Against 1, Abstain 6