

## Emergency Student Council Minutes

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 1:30-2:30pm, Meadows Lecture Theatre

RESULTS:

Paper	Votes For	Votes Against	Abstentions	Percentage in Favour	Pass?
<b>Motion: Support the University Staff in their Industrial Action</b>	99.5	4.5	3.5	96%	PASS
<b>Expenditure Request: Supporting University staff in industrial action</b>	33	3	1.5	92%	PASS

### Motion: Support the University Staff in their Industrial Action – Vivek Santayana

Vivek Santayana: Thanks to the UCU ballot in favour of taking action regarding the appalling ongoing pensions dispute. There is up to £200,000 of continued casualization; issues of wage inequality based on gender and other sectionalises such as disability, nationality, et cetera; exploitative workloads for lecturers and tutors. The university agrees that these issues exist but action has been implemented shoddily across schools and departments.

*Q: Oona Miller, VP Welfare: Could you comment on the impact of Post Graduate Research students' working conditions?*

A: Workloads are grossly disproportionate outside of teaching hours, which is often due to adjustments of student grades and giving feedback and meeting students for office hours. Tutors are only paid for 15-20 minutes for each essay they mark which does not cover the amount of time they spend giving feedback in total. The amount of hours compromises staff's ability to act in good faith when marking student work: we want to do our best but the conditions the university currently provide undermines the ability to do so.

*Q: Mickey Ferguson, History, Classics and Archaeology Representative: Is there a specific outline of the support that will be implemented?*

A: The support means that EUSA will be able to co-ordinate with the UCU branch office by providing space for the action, providing literature to students about the action and how they can show support it, providing template letters for students to send to Principal, and offer help for student societies showing solidarity.

James Polonsky, tutor for Literatures, Languages, Languages and Cultures and Philosophy, Psychology and Language Science: I agree with the motion as a tutor. The university is lacking in support for international students especially. The student satisfaction at Edinburgh is so low and continued support should be shown in order to improve things.

Vivek Santayana: I agree entirely with James' comment as an international student and hopefully this will be a starting point for further supportive action. The University prides itself in world class teaching and student satisfaction. The way in which the university treats the staff is unsustainable, and unjust.



**Expenditure request: To fund materials for supporting University staff in industrial action – Association Exec – Andrew Wilson**

Andrew Wilson, President: The five sabbs are asking for up to £750 to fund events and activities that EUSA wants to run to support the staff and lecturers in their strike.

*Q: Mickey Ferguson, History, Classics and Archaeology Representative: Can we have a specific breakdown on expenditure, will it be on tea, posters..?*

A: If you refer back to last time there was UCU action, money was spent on hot drinks, materials, and hosting teach outs in Potterrow. We will provide a breakdown of the expenditure once agreed but we are open to suggestions of the money should be spent.

*Q: David Renton, Part-time Student Representatives: Is that amount enough? Is there money available?*

A: In the last round of strikes, which was longer, there was a budget of £1500 but none of the budget has been spent yet so there is about £3000 available and will look into it if prompted.

*Q: Vivek Santayana: What is the timeframe? There is a strike up to 4<sup>th</sup> December strike action but if there's action short of strike thereafter will there be more money available or will the £750 be spread out over this time too?*

A: Oona Miller, VP Welfare: The expenditure request is valid until the 20<sup>th</sup> January, which is the next Student Council meeting where another expenditure request can be debated again for further funding if we need it.

Andrew Wilson, President: Please vote for it.