Student Council Minutes
Thursday 26th March 2020, 6-8pm, Online

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Accountability

Full Sabbatical Officer Reports can be found in the papers. A recording of the meeting can be found on youtube.

Andrew Wilson, President

Q: Jeremy Pestle: It is good news that the University has decided to allow students living in their halls of residences to break their contracts early in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I am concerned that they’re still enforcing a 28-day notice period, meaning that students will still have to pay rent for the month of April despite already having returned home. I note that many students, particularly those who were on exchange for this semester, were given far less notice to return to their home country and I think it’s deeply unfair for the university to enforce such a long notice period. Was this a concern that you brought up in discussions with the university?

A: So just on Jeremy’s point, yeah, I really appreciate that obviously there’s no ideal situation for students in situations like this. The 28-day notice period was actually a suggestion the Students’ Association had put to the University to negotiate the best deal for students. So, the 28-day notice period replicates what happens in the private rented sector. The University has a huge - has one of biggest in the country - numbers of university accommodation. It would be really, really complicated to go further and we wanted to negotiate the best deal and make a real good compromise with the University. I think we’ve achieved that, of course it won’t for every student and we recognise that, but we have had lots of different priorities. I think it’s a really, really important issue and I will be sure to address that work with my Sabbatical Officer colleagues. But just to be frank and transparent with you, my...
time has been quite stretched and I haven’t got around to that yet and I’m sure that the other officers haven’t been able to as well. I hope that addresses your concerns.

RESULTS - 90% for
For: 27.5
Against: 3
Abstain: 3

Beth Fellows, VP Activities and Services
Q: Jeremy Pestle: Firstly, such wonderful words there and I hope you’ve enjoyed your time in the role! The Microsoft Teams platform for societies to interact with the Students’ Association while their office is closed appears to be in good use. This new level of communication appears to have made connecting societies to the Students’ Association much easier and would be an asset to retain beyond the pandemic. Are you in agreement that this platform should continue to be used and more effectively in future?

A: So, I would probs answer that, yeah, I am in agreement that this is a really good platform, and actually, I don’t want to say a silver lining, but this certainly has made us advance kind of online platforms and doing stuff online a lot quicker, potentially than it would have done any other way. So, I think that this is definitely a good platform. It’s something that we’ve been using within the Students’ Association as well, so I’ve been working very closely with the Activities Office using Microsoft Teams. It’s been really good to get office bearers involved and get really high engagement and help make sure that we are supporting them in the best way possible. So, I would say yes!

RESULTS - 100% for
For: 33.5
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Rosheen Wallace, VP Community
Q: Vivek Santayana: Firstly, such wonderful words there and I hope you’ve enjoyed your time in the role! The Microsoft Teams platform for societies to interact with the Students’ Association while their office is closed appears to be in good use. This new level of communication appears to have made connecting societies to the Students’ Association much easier and would be an asset to retain beyond the pandemic. Are you in agreement that this platform should continue to be used and more effectively in future?

A: Vivek, it’s a really good question. So I know about a lot of mutual aid groups that have already been set up and we originally added these as resources on the webpage because I thought that it might get a bit overwhelming and a bit confusing to have so many different mutual aid groups, to then set up another one. It’s also something that we could still do, but I think, for the moment, I am kind of signposting people to things that are already existing.

Q: Daniel Mutia, International Students’ Representative: I have a question regarding students who didn’t go home and are currently living in university catered accommodation. In the case of Pollock Halls for example – JMCC is no longer operating and students have to work with take away food.
Do you think that this is an appropriate way to eat for the next couple of weeks? And if not, what solution do you think could be taken in that regard?

A: Regarding students that are currently living in student accommodation. The Director of Accommodation is already working on this because obviously not being able to provide the normal food has been a difficult decision that has had to be made at the University because it's, yeah, it's kind of something that has never had to be done before. But I believe they are offering students to move into self-catered accommodation. So, I think that that would be a good solution. For students who are worried about that, they should contact Accommodation and then just ask to be moved into self-catered halls. I think that would be one way to do it.

Q: Jeremy Pestle: Rosheen! Firstly, I'd like to thank you for issuing a correction on Monday to your draft report that had suggested the Shuttle Bus was to be retained for a further year. Note of those discussions subsequently disappeared from the final papers. Can I ask simply what the actual conclusions of those discussions were, and given the COVID-19 pandemic would you agree that it is inappropriate in any event for the University to implement new arrangements in the next academic year?

A: Ok yes, this is an issue that I think we could take offline, if that's okay? Just because we haven't heard confirmation from the University on what's happening with the shuttle bus next year. There's not been anything from the University on that.

RESULTS - 91% for
For: 30.5
Against: 3
Abstain: 0

Stephanie Vallancey, VP Education

Q: Jeremy Pestle: Hi Steph! Earlier today the Vice Principal Students Colm Harmon issued an email to all students advising on what likely exam arrangements for semester two will be. The email states that for a small number of cases, the period available to complete their exams will be their regular allocated time plus one hour. Students from the School of Physics have been told that this is their arrangement. Some of them will have returned home, and those in the States now face sitting exams at absurd times of the day. For example, those in New York are being asked to start their exams at 4:30 in the morning, and on the West Coast it's even worse - 1:30am. What can you do to reassure those students who now have to sit exams during the night?

A: Yes, an email did go out from Colm today, and had quite a sort of new approach for all the assessments and how they will look for the next few months for Honours students. Most are going to be over 48 hours, except for several sort of quantitative in math and physics, and maybe a few other specific ones, which will be over just a couple of hours. I have yet to confirm this with the university over how it will work, but we are very aware that students will be in different time zones and there is still an active discussion on how to support students who will be, let's say in the States for example, and do not want to wake up at 1am to do an exam. It is definitely something that we are still discussing with the University to make sure students are still supported during it.
Q: Vivek Santayana: Hi Steph, cheers for all your work and all your support during the industrial action. Student feedback questionnaires have been recorded to have demonstrated bias along the lines of race and gender of lecturers. In your work to update these course questionnaires, how have you considered mitigating these problems?

A: Yes, absolutely. One of the issues that we had was over these sorts of biases that students are having when it comes to these and it is a really key point of why we’re looking at them because they’re not actually accurate anymore. I think that the type of feedback forms that we will have in the future will be very sensitive to this and we will try our best to be as useful as possible. But, yes, it’s definitely in our minds when we are looking at these.

RESULTS - 100% for
For: 33.5
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Oona Miller, VP Welfare

Q: Jeremy Pestle: Given this is my last question to them, really quickly I’d like to say a big thank you to all the Sabbatical Officers this year for their hard work and their willingness to answer what have been at times some very difficult questions at Student Council. I’ve managed to rattle some of you from time to time but I hope I’ve been as constructive as possible. Good evening Oona! This month we heard some news that the new Health and Wellbeing Centre was due to open later this month - I understand you took a tour of the new facility along with Ellen (our Disabled Students’ Officer). Obviously that opening has been pushed back; you mention in your report until late April. Firstly, how will the new centre improve the services offered by the Disability and Counselling services? Second, do you reasonably believe that the new centre will open before September, given all campus buildings appear to be closed for at least three months?

A: I did put in my accountability report that the centre would be due to open at the end of April because when I was submitting my report that was indeed the case. Whilst I don’t know what the alternative date is, that is definitely no longer the case. I think it extremely unlikely that the centre would be opening at the end of April. I think there is every possibility that the centre could be open by the end of September if the international situation has changed significantly since then, and if I’m being optimistic, I think it will have done. The centre, for all intents and purposes, is ready to open. The only reason they didn’t do the final handover is because it became apparent that they would not be doing in-person service-delivery anymore. So, I think all being well in terms of global health, then yes, it will open in September. All not being well, which unfortunately is a possibility at this moment in time, then, no. That’s maybe quite a simplistic answer, so I would endeavour to retain some nuance in that, looking in perspective.

In terms of the benefits that it’s going to bring, this centre is a huge testament to a lot of lobbying work over past few years, including a 40% increase overall in provision of counselling and disability services. And that’s over and above services that are already provided and campuses like Kings’ Buildings, so it will not be replacing any services that are being delivered on non-central campuses, so that’s really positive. In addition to that, there are some new roles that have been created and will be housed in this centre, including an autism specialist and the University’s British Sign Language specialist, who is helping with the BSL implementation plan. And, as well as that, there is just a general improvement in wellbeing space, so there has been the development of this
Wellbeing Lounge that students will be able to use at their discretion, and that’s open to suggestion of how that gets used, but we’ll see - it’s developing.

RESULTS - 92% for
For: 28.5
Against: 2.5
Abstain: 2.5

Motions and Expenditure Requests

Create a Section Representative post for Students who commute to University, submitted by Jeremy Pestle

Speech for by proposer, Jeremy Pestle

Good evening everybody! Just for those not at Council in February, let me really quickly summarise the motion. We are going to institute a Section Representative post for Students who commute to University. I'd like to really quickly begin by thanking everyone in February for their support, I am actually really humbled by it. I spent some time paying attention to the recent student elections earlier this month, and more particularly to those who were choosing not to vote or who were not aware of what this Association does for students. And I'd like to answer one of those questions: the work that the Association does builds connections and friendships between students by connecting them to their passions and hobbies, providing balance between work and play. The more of our student body that we can facilitate friendship between, the better for everyone, and this motion goes some way to achieving that, which is good news, not just for commuter students, but for all of us. If you didn't have a reason to vote on this in February, I hope that with that in mind I have been able to help you reconsider. It is on that basis that I ask that we pass this motion at its second reading.

Questions

Q: Vivek Santayana: Thank you for your work on this, Jeremy. There are a number of intersecting issues that often affect commuter students and their circumstances, including amongst others the cost and availability of housing. I had a colleague who found it easier to commute in from Malmo in Sweden, taking a train into Copenhagen and then flying to Edinburgh, and couchsurf or AirBnB two nights a week, than live in Edinburgh. How would you propose addressing these various intersecting issues that cover other aspects of EUSA campaigns?

A: Blimey, Vivek, you say you have a colleague who found it easier to commute from Malmo to Edinburgh! That’s quite extraordinary! It's, in my mind, completely all about working together, so having this section representative post can liaise, I assume, with all the other reps, if they exist. If they don’t exist and there’s another gap there that needs to get filled. I think it really is quite simply a case of having as many people as possible work together from those campaigns as possible, and the commuter student rep would be a valuable input to that.

Summation, by proposer, Jeremy Pestle

Yeah, really quickly, I think changes like this isn’t something that one person does on their own. In spirit of our President here who based much of his campaign last year on students as change makers, we can make a lot of powerful, positive changes when we work together. It’s not just me who brought this to the stage, but those at Student Council who voted for it last
month, it was the 40 people who decided to sign with me, this is very much a team effort, and I’d like to say that it wouldn’t be possible without them. And, you know what to do!

RESULTS - 77% for
For: 41
Against: 12.5
Abstain: 1

Mitigating financial barriers that prevent Section Reps from fulfilling their role, submitted by Vivek Santayana

Speech for by proposer, Vivek Santayana

I would just like to start by expressing my appreciation for the work that Jeremy is doing with this motion, I think it does valuable work in helping students who haven’t been served by the Students’ Association in various capacities. However, being in a position like this, the responsibility of being a rep brings with it a burden, which students such as commuter students might find to be excessive on top of any issues and structural barriers they already face to participate at the University. EUSA already provides funding for student reps to make council more accessible. However, I have a concern, and a lot of students share this, that a commuter student rep would need to be present on campus more to fulfill the responsibilities of being a rep, and this brings with it additional costs and financial burdens. I am proposing this motion to suggest that we have policy at the Students’ Association to take on advice of all the various burdens that might apply to students in these positions, not just commuter reps, but other section reps as well, and provide them with additional funding for additional expenses to mitigate these barriers.

Questions

Q: Jeremy Pestle: Great idea Vivek! The Student Newspaper earlier this month published an opinion piece about the amount of funds that haven't allocated from the Student Council budget this year - did you believe that making a further request from the remaining funds for this purpose was inappropriate for this year, and if so why?

A: Thanks for the question, Jeremy. So, the funding for the various section reps would need to come from a different budget than the Students’ Association’s campaigns budget, so I don’t think that the campaigns budget is something that could be applicable for this kind of funding. This would need to be something that the Students’ Association would need to take into advisement for future budgets entirely. So that’s why the specific fund was not applicable in this case.

Q: Catrinel Gheorghiu, PG Clinical Sciences Representative: I would like to ask what are the current financial barriers that prevent section reps to do their role properly. What do we have as examples? Thanks

A: To summarise very quickly, a few years ago the University tried to have a thematic survey of post-graduate students, and they were unable to find feedback from commuter students precisely because they weren’t given expenses to cover their train tickets in to be part of focus groups. That’s one example of these kinds of barriers that might prevent reps from doing their role properly. Students who have to physically commute to the University to be the Commuter Students’ Rep would need expenses to do that.
Summation by proposer, Vivek Santayana
So as I have already mentioned in my question from Jeremy, this is something that affected a friend of mine very closely and I really see the value of the motion that Jeremy has put forward, but I think that we need to recognise the various costs that this would put on the person fulfilling this role. This motion is to support office bearers and make them more capable of doing their role. For that reason, I ask all of you to support the motion.

RESULTS - 85% for
For: 40.5
Against: 7
Abstain: 7

We are European, submitted by Association Executive

Speech for by Lena Kraus
I am just going to start by saying why it's me doing the 'speech for.' A couple of weeks ago, I collected 20 signatures on a motion to have the European flag at Teviot and Andrew made a pro-Europe motion too, and then we put the motions together and worked together to present this joint motion. It's about EUSA preserving and presenting a european identity, especially after Brexit, so that the University of Edinburgh remains part of programmes for academic exchange for students, staff and researchers, and also to lobby the government to keep this possible. The University is a place of learning, and separation can only harm learning opportunities, and the vast majority of students voted remain as well. This motion is important to me personally. I am German, but I also have strong ties to Cornwall, I have family there, it's home. Brexit makes me feel I've lost that but seeing the European flag at Teviot made me feel like I still have a home here. There are many people who are affected similarly or worse, and knowing that we have the support of our Students’ Association, small gestures like putting up the flag, really mean a lot.

Questions, answered by Andrew Wilson, President

Q: Catrinel Gheorghiu, PG Clinical Sciences Representative: I would like to ask if the University belongs to UK and the whole UK left EU, what are the legal implications of flying such a flag? thanks

A: I don’t think there are any legal implications of flying a flag. I’m happy to check that, but it’s been flown before, and we flew it for a while after we left the EU, so I don’t think that will be a legal issue.

Q: Jeremy Pestle: Question about point 5 in the "What We Will Do"; would it not be more productive of the Students’ Association to pass this representative role on to the succeeding Presidents as they take office in the future, to maintain a renewed and active presence?

A: Yeah, that's definitely something I'd be willing to talk to Ellen about, but obviously we can’t expect that certain officers want to take on certain tasks. It’s just to renew some form of consistency, but things may change, so they wouldn't be held to this, they can change, and their accountability reports can reflect any changes in that so that students have an up to date version.

Summation by Andrew Wilson, President
Thank you, thanks again to Lena for introducing this motion, and thank you to her for submitting a separate motion that we managed to combine. With 20 student signatures, there’s clearly a strength of support among students for maintaining a European identity. The Students’ Association and the University of Edinburgh represents many European students. We have the most European students in Scotland and the second most in the UK, so we want to preserve that European identity. I think that that is something that is really strongly felt amongst the student body, and we really want to reflect that in the work that we do, so please support this motion. Thanks!

RESULTS - 94% for
For: 55
Against: 3.5
Abstain: 3.5

Fighting the Structural Racism of the Prevent Strategy and the Hostile Environment, submitted by Vivek Santayana

Speech for by proposer, Vivek Santayana

I’d like to start by thanking Meyra for a lot of help with this, especially as the as BAME rep for students. I am proposing this motion because EUSA’s Prevent policy is lapsing, and I think this is policy we need to renew. I also want to expand the remit of that policy to consider not just Prevent but Hostile Environment because both of these are kinds of policies which get the University, through the teaching staff as well as admin staff, to surveil students in what is a breach of their privacy and their education. I note that EUSA has already passed a policy on the Hostile Environment, and in this policy that I am proposing I am suggesting more concrete measures that we can take to specifically find ways of opposing Prevent and the Hostile Environment policy on students themselves. Things like providing students with legal advice about their rights, as well as providing them with support when they have to negotiate structures like going to Prevent training or dealing with immigration issues within their departments. Please support this motion to oppose any such form of discrimination against international students or BAME students that they may face because of these policies.

Questions
Q: Catrinel Gheorghiu, PG Clinical Sciences Representative: Sorry for asking this so late: Vivek, you mentioned something about Counter Terrorism Act. Could you give me more details about this and what is the impact?

A: Most of the details are in the text of the motion that I have already put forward. Amongst the specific impacts on students at the University, some of the things include lecturers being trained to have to report any students who they consider to be at risk of radicalisation because of any research that they are doing for their dissertation or their essays. And a lot of students who choose to do fieldwork or research into themes that could be considered at risk to radicalisation, particularly if they are working on issues around politics in the Middle East, have often been required to undergo specific forms of training relating to prevent, training that is often very opaque and enveloped with a number of existing biases that ferment an environment of Islamophobia. These are specific ways in which students have been affected. I do not know of any immediate cases that come to mind about students who have been reported to the Home Office because of their research, myself. But, there have been documented cases of this happening in the press across various universities in the UK, so this
is something which I would welcome you to read up in your own time. I could look something up myself later on if you'd like.

**Summation by proposer, Vivek Santayana**

As an international student it is something that really does terrify me when all of my movements are being tracked by the University for the Home Office. So as a Ph.D. student who tutors, being forced to be complicit in the Prevent policy, and all the duties that that entails, as well as the Home Office and Hostile Environment policies, is something I find morally repugnant. I don't think that education should be a space of surveillance, and I don't think this creates a conducive atmosphere for our students to engage. These policies structurally discriminate against international students and BAME students, and for these reasons I am proposing this motion that we oppose these policies. I invite all of you to vote in favour of this motion.

**RESULTS** - 86%

For: 44.5  
Against: 7  
Abstain: 4

**Affiliations**

Andrew Wilson, President, presents the Sabbatical Officer recommendations for Affiliations  
Hello everybody. Thank you, Amalie. I am just going to detail the process around affiliations just so everybody is clear. It’s a bit boring, but I will have to cover it. Under the Education Act, each year the Students’ Association is required to give all of our members, which is all of you, the opportunity to review the organisation’s ongoing affiliations. In line with this, the Association Executive, which is the five Sabbatical Officers, we have prepared a paper detailing the Students’ Association’s current affiliations and our recommendations on whether to continue to affiliate or discontinue affiliation.

Where we have recommended an affiliation is discontinued, we have explained the reasoning in the paper that you should all have access to. Today I am asking you, our members, to vote for or against those recommendations. These affiliations will also be considered by the Students’ Association Trustee Board. Just to reiterate, the Trustee Board is made up of your five elected Sabbatical Officers, four appointed Student Trustees, three External Trustees, and under charities law the Trustee Board is responsible for ensuring that the Students’ Association has a clear purpose, is operating legally, and is financially viable.

If both Student Council and the Trustee Board accept the recommendations of Association Executive, then they will be implemented. If Student Council and the Trustee Board cannot reach a consensus on the recommendations of Association Executive, then the status quo will remain and the Students’ Association will retain all our existing affiliations. Any affiliation can only be overturned by referendum, and any referendum proposal can be submitted in any of the three following ways:

- You can submit a referendum proposal directly to Association Executive. Any member can submit a referendum proposal and you have to have the signatures of 500 members.
- Any member can submit a referendum proposal by bringing an extraordinary motion to Student Council
- Or, the Association Executive can submit a referendum proposal by a two thirds majority.

Today, we are recommending the following affiliations:
- We are recommending that we continue to affiliate to the National Union of Students
- We discontinue our affiliation to the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative, due to the campaign no longer being active
- We recommend discontinuing affiliation to the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts, due to the organisation no longer existing
- We recommend continuing affiliation to the Stop Climate Chaos organisation
- We recommend discontinuing affiliation due to the campaign no longer being active of the Votes at 16 Coalition
- We recommend continuing affiliation to the Right to Education Campaign and the Friends of Birzeit University

Questions

Q: Catrinel Gheorghiu, PG Clinical Sciences Representative: I would like to ask what is our relationship with Birzeit University?

Q: Lena Kraus: Just about the friends of Birzeit University, what’s the background on the affiliation and what does it mean that the affiliation fee is unclear?

A: Just to address the first two questions from Lena and Catrinel, there's a lot of detail in the paper. The Friends of Birzeit University is a grassroots campaign in support of the right to education, and its role in the wider development of Palestinian society. They work with partners in Palestine and globally to deliver events, scholarships and writing residences. I think there is a lot of uncertainty around the affiliation fee, which is why it's unclear, but we did recommend continuing affiliation and we can revisit that when we find out more detail. I believe previously it's been £15 to affiliate.

Q: Jeremy Pestle: Question about the Votes at 16 Coalition - did the Students’ Association attempt contact with the coalition to establish definitively whether the campaign was active or not?

A: We based whether or not they are active on their web presence, and the Votes at 16 Coalition had very limited web presence. And just for a bit of context, the Votes at 16 Coalition was set up around 2013, I believe, when the idea of votes at 16 was not really tossed around a lot. In the last election we saw a few of the major parties pledging for votes at 16; in Scotland students can vote at 16 in some elections. So, the campaign is slightly less active because they have achieved a lot of what they set out to do. I believe there is still work to do on the Coalition, but we don’t believe that that specific organisation is still active.

Q: Iona Douglas: have we received any active benefit from NUS affiliation this year? especially in light of many universities discontinuing their affiliation

A: I am not actually sure of any universities that have discontinued their affiliation this year, so I’m not really sure that that’s an issue.
Q: Jamie McDonald: Do you still believe that affiliation is worth £57,000?

A: Yes, I totally believe that we receive an active benefit from that fee. Being affiliated to NUS is really important in terms of collective representation, there’s significant savings on products via the NUS’ National Consortium where we buy all the drinks that you buy and all the products that you get in your stores, and that is very substantial due to collective buying power. Most importantly, the NUS provides support and training for your Sabbatical Officers to make sure that we can do the best job for you, and that we have the right tools and training to lobby the University and wider stakeholders. So, I would believe that affiliating to NUS is still really, really important. Right now, during a pandemic, the national union are doing amazing lobbying work to local and national governments on how to achieve the best deal for students and I’m really proud to be part of the national union.

RESULTS - 85% for
For: 34
Against: 6
Abstain: 4

Any Other Business

Oona Miller, VP Welfare
Hi everyone, I just wanted to say a huge thank you for this year. It’s obviously been a pretty tumultuous time, but I think we all, including you as students attending these sessions, have completely outdone ourselves. I want to say a particular thank you to Amalie. This is her last Student Council before she graduates this year. She has been with us for, I think, two years and has done, I think you’ll all agree, a really fantastic job. Just wanted to say a big thanks to all of you and to Amalie in particular, thanks!

Rosheen Wallace, VP Community
Hi, yeah, I just wanted to also say thanks to everyone and thanks to all those who participated in our first ever online Student Council, which has been a bit of an experiment, but hopefully it has been a really good learning curve for everyone, and that you can bear with us, and that it will be improved in the future as well. And also, just to say that it has been an amazing year, with lots of ups and downs, but it’s such an experience. And also, congrats to next year’s team who are going to take over, and who I already think are going to do an excellent job. Thanks to everyone!

Vivek Santayana
I’d like to thank Grace and Sarah for all of their help with everything, and for letting me take up half of the agenda for motions in the last two Council meetings. I really appreciate the opportunity.

I’d also like to make a quick shout out to the charity Health in Mind. They are organising an online support group for people based in Edinburgh and the Lothians. This is to replace the physical support groups that they used to run, and especially given the difficult times that we are in now I think this might be a useful resource that a lot of students might want to be aware
Health in Mind is an Edinburgh-based mental health charity that a number of people volunteer with. They are organising a support group via Zoom for people to sign up to. More details can be found on their website. Feel free to look it up. If you need that kind of help and support feel free to reach out for it.

Thank you all for your patience and support in listening to the motion that I put forward.

Andrew Wilson, President

Basically was just going to say what the other Sabbatical Officers said. A huge congratulations and thank you to Amalie for all that you have done for Student Council over the last few years. A special shout out to all those who have held me accountable this year - you've really made the job worthwhile. I love hearing all your thoughts and I can’t wait to hand over to the new team of Sabbatical Officers next year. Although, just a reminder that your current Sabbatical Officers are still your Sabbatical Officers until the end of may - you can’t get rid of us that easily! Thank you everyone for engaging in online democracy!

Jeremy Pestle

Hi everybody, just once again with a shout out. Just a thank you to the entire Student Council team for all the hard work you do behind the scenes, particularly bringing it all together because it is quite a challenge. Thank you for having me as well, I hope I’ve done a good job of holding everyone to account. Some people will notice I’ve been particularly active this year, that’s something I intend to do next year.

I think the one thing I want to plug your attention towards is the work that I have done with EUTV, in particular with NewsEd. It’s a great channel for reporting everything that’s going on on campus and I am going to continue to work with them next year as well as being an Activities Rep myself, which I’m really excited about. Congratulations to everyone that’s been elected, very much looking forward to working with everyone, but particularly Rachel, who is going to be my boss. Congratulations Rachel! Everyone have a great summer! I know it’s not going to sound like it’s going to be a great summer, but I hope everyone does their best, I guess, in the circumstances. Try to have as cheerful a time as you possibly can, and thank you very much!

Lena Kraus

I just wanted to say also that I’ve been in quite a lot of online meetings before, and this was really great, so I just wanted to say thank you to the people who set this up online in such a short time. It worked really well!

Beth Fellows, VP Activities and Services

I just want to say a special thank you to all the other Sabbs. Genuinely, this year has been a rollercoaster, but the team that we form, having not known each other before this year. I think it’s a really unique opportunity and I would really like to thank you all personally because I’ve learnt so much from you and also the other students. But, yeah, particularly the Sabb team and all the staff at the Students' Association because we can’t do our jobs without your support, so thank you very much.

Stephanie Vallancey, VP Education
I just wanted to follow on from everyone else and say thank you so much, it really has been an amazing year. You do still have us for a couple more months, but I’m so excited to hand over to the next team. We know they’re going to do brilliantly. But also just a huge thank you to everyone who has helped put this online, it’s been amazing! And thanks to Amalie! And thanks to all our reps and everyone else for coming to Student Council and holding us accountable, probably really important. Good luck to everyone in the next few months! Thank you, it’s been great!