

**Durham Students' Union  
Assembly Agenda**

Tuesday 12 June 2018– 19:00, ER201

<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Paper</b>
19:00 19:01	A. Welcome	Chair	
19:01 19:03	B. Apologies for absence and conflicts of interest	Chair	
19:03 19:05	C. Minutes of the meeting on March 13	Chair	UA/1718/036

**Items for Discussion**

19:05 19:14	D. Elections of Assembly & Committee position	Chair	UA/1718/037
19:14 19:28	E. Updates on Officer work	Student Officers	UA/1718/038
19:28 19:37	F. Trustee Report	Megan	UA/1718/039
19:37 19:51	G. Policy on 24hr Library	Stuart Goldie	UA/1718/040
19:51 20:05	H. Policy on GMB Deal	George Walker	UA/1718/041
20:05 20:19	I. Policy on Antisemitism at Durham University	Isabelle Tarsh	UA/1718/042
20:19 20:28	J. Standing Orders Changes	Charlie & Rosa	UA/1718/043

**Any Other Business**

20:28 20:37	K. Society Application Submission Terms and Conditions	Charlie	UA/1718/044
20:37 20:41	L. Update from Committees	Committee Chairs	UA/1718/045
20:41 20:45	M. NUS Conference Paper	NUS Delegates	UA/1718/046

20:45

N. Questions to Officers

Student Officers

21:00

**Items for Information \***

O. Volunteer Discipline Policy

Charlie

UA/1718/047

\* This item will not be discussed during Assembly and is for information. If you have any questions relating to this document please contact Charlie Walker.

This is the last Assembly meeting of this year. Dates for next year's Assembly meetings will be circulated over the summer.

***Assembly is committed to making its meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. If you consider yourself to have any access or reasonable adjustment needs, please contact the Union President at [su.president@durham.ac.uk](mailto:su.president@durham.ac.uk) at least 2 days in advance to make arrangements.***

## **Assembly minutes 13-03-18**

### Welcome

Antonia Barber opened the meeting.

### The resignation of Matt Gibson

Antonia noted that Matt Gibson had resigned from his role as Chair of Assembly.

### The resignation of Laura Tidd

Antonia announced that Laura Tidd left her role as Undergraduate Academic Officer by mutual agreement from 12 March, following on from her recent extended sick leave and ongoing health issues. She will hand over her work to staff and other officers, to be managed until the new Undergraduate Academic Officer takes up the role. Students wishing to raise an issue within this remit, or with queries they would have directed to Laura, should continue to address these to the su.ugacademic@durham.ac.uk email address which will be monitored.

### Conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### Minutes of the meeting on 8 February

The minutes were approved.

### Minutes of the meeting on 14 February

The minutes were approved.

### UCU update

Megan Croll stated that she has been in contact with UCU and will issue a statement in due course.

### Routine Business

#### Update on Officer Work

##### *President – Megan Croll*

Megan Croll updated on her work. James Creer asked for clarification regarding bursary tiers. Megan stated that other Universities offer bursaries of up to £45,000.

Megan read a statement from UCU reps.

##### *Opportunities Officer – Charlie Walker*

Charlie Walker updated on his work. James Creer asked what the University was planning to do to address the wider costs of Student Experience. Charlie explained that the research that he commissioned had just been completed and that he would take some recommendations to the University.

##### *Welfare and Liberation Officer – Rosa Tallack*

Rosa Tallack updated on her work. Cat May asked for some clarification about Pincident about how areas would be classified.

#### Items for Discussion

##### Ratification of Women's Association

Simona Battipaglia and Alexandra Thomas spoke in favour of the ratification of Women's Association.

There were no requests for clarification.

Darcy Van Eerten spoke against the ratification of the association on the basis that issues could be tackled in a different way.

Esther Green stated that whilst Women are over-represented in numbers, they face systematic oppression within society, the University and Colleges. Esther said that while they can be tackled through other methods – they are a group of students who want to campaign on these issues.

Darcy Van Eerten said that as a woman that she would try to tackle this from other avenues.

Vote for -

Vote against – 1

Any abstentions - 1

Woman's Association was ratified as the seventh Association.

##### Ratification of Working Class Students' Association

Samuel Osman spoke in favour of the ratification of a Working Class Students' Association. St Chad's Union Rep asked about whether there were too many exec roles, Sam explained that it replicated those of other Associations. Sam Johnson-Audini asked what plans they had for the year. Samuel Osman explained the term card. Helen Paton asked how the group would not be political. Sam Osman explained that they would ensure it was not.

George Stanbury said that there were concerns about the association's definition of Working Class was misleading. George also stated that campaign could be done outside of being an association as Working Class students did not need welfare services.

Alexandra Thomas said all associations are about welfare. Alex also stated that they should be able to bid for Association grants.

Megan stated that there had been a lack of consultation on the name of the group. Megan also stated that AGM had been announced with short notice. Megan agrees with the idea in principle but would like more students to be able to feed in.

A student spoke in favour of the motion saying that the event was advertised on the page which has around 500 likes. The student also disputed that many of the group did not know each other and stated that issues around names of Associations. Esther Green stated that People of Colour had consulted on their name.

James Creer said that the issue was important but they would likely have to give financial support which the association would be unable to do.

George Stanbury summated his point.

Sam Osman summated the motion.

Vote for -

Vote against –

Any abstentions -

The Working Class Association was ratified as an Association.

#### Academic representation on Assembly

Sarah Metcalfe explained that she wanted to change the number of reps to reflect who sits on it.

Justin Beese asked whether it was a case of getting different reps.

James Creer said that it was more like to reach quorum.

Vote for -

Vote against –

Any abstentions -

The motion passed.

#### Trustees report

Megan Croll introduced the trustees' report. The Governance and Appointments committee has asked to extend the Trustee appointments for Anthony Baker and Louise Shillinglaw until July and then all co-opted trustees will be discussed at the final Assembly.

Vote for -

Vote against –

Any abstentions -

The report was accepted.

#### Governance Review

Esther Green gave a verbal update on the upcoming governance review. Amelia McLoughlan asked to what extent JCRs would be involved. Esther said that this would be done through a review and by observing Northumbria and Newcastle's equivalent of Assembly.

#### Questions to Officers

Amelia McLoughlan asked Megan about the differentiation between the impact of the strikes of different departments. Megan said that Alan had said that no exams will feature content that has not been taught and there will be mitigations. Megan asked Amelia to contact her with any specific issues from disabled students.

George Stanbury asked how Megan would ensure that students were not used as bargaining chips. Megan said that Assembly would discuss this.

Alex Linquist Jones asked about why it Megan is calling for the 17th college after a woman. Megan referred to the policy.

George Stanbury asked whether committee reports still happen at Assembly. Esther Green said they'd stopped because of they too lengthy but Governance and Grants would discuss this.

Close meeting

Antonia closed the meeting and explained that the next meeting of Assembly will be on Tuesday 12th June at 19:00. If you would like to submit anything to the agenda please do so by the 2nd of June.

## Elections of Assembly & Committee positions

- Assembly Chair Candidates:  
Thomas Pymer, Helen Paton, Ted Lavis Coward, Meerev Shah, RON
- Assembly Open Place Candidates:  
Thomas Pymer, Isobel Cheshire, RON
- Governance & Grants Open Place Candidates:  
Connor Slomski, Wan Aiman Azmi, RON

Note: all remaining elections will be held at the first Assembly meeting of the 2018/2019 academic year.

### Assembly Chair

#### 1. Thomas Pymer - Manifesto

Hey, I'm Tom, and I'm standing to be Chair of Assembly.

I have experience in chairing meetings. I served as Chair of my secondary school equality team and Amnesty International society. I freely admit Assembly is a different game, but I feel this gives me some of the experience I need.

Assembly is a difficult body to moderate. My attendances at these meetings have shown me that very clearly. But nonetheless, I know we can do better than this. We have gone through three Chairs in as many terms.

Measures need to be taken. They will be unpopular and harsh, but if we want to turn this Assembly into a well-functioning representative body, they are necessary:

- There must be no threats of violence during Assembly
- Only one person at a time must be allowed to speak in Assembly
- The decision of the Chair is to be considered final
- Any breaking of these suggestions will be met with immediate expulsion from the meeting

However, if I am elected Chair, there will also be positives. Namely:

- More discussion and liaison with college SU committees
- Efficiency
- Pragmatism
- Neutrality

I hope you will do me the honour of electing me Chair of Assembly.

#### 2. Helen Paton – Manifesto

I'm currently the SU rep for Mary's, Chair of the SU Reps and NUS delegate. During my time here I've been heavily involved and seen how the SU can really make an impact and how the decisions are taken right here, in assembly. This role requires commitment, public speaking, respect and knowing where to draw a line, which I believe are key. I believe I have worked hard to understand how assembly works as a SU rep and I would ensure that fairness as well as transparency is a number one priority. This is a place where we all should feel welcomed to speak, and I want to make sure that

this is a space where debates run smoothly. Please do trust me with your vote as it would be my pleasure to chair assembly next year and see what all of you bring to the table for the sake of Durham.

### 3. Ted Lavis Coward - Manifesto

Having been a voting member of Assembly as LGBT+ Association President and having worked as a Trustee for the SU this year I have worked closely with our elected officers and understand how the Union runs and appreciate how vital democracy is to issues facing students at Durham. I've been elected to represent students at NUS National Conference and NUS LGBT+ Conference twice, having also been elected to NUS LGBT+ Committee this year. I have a thorough understanding of how our democracy here impacts national policy and I know as Chair of Assembly I'll continue to ensure the democracy of Durham Students' Union is simple to navigate and is both accessible and transparent. Throughout my time at Durham I've championed and amplified the voices of our most marginalised students and as Chair I'd love to lead the democracy that facilitates the great campaigning activism I've been involved with here.

Vote TLC for an Assembly Chair dedicated to a relevant, engaging and impactful democracy at the heart of our Union.

### 4. Meerav Shah - Manifesto

I have nominated myself for Chair of the Assembly with the aim of helping student voice at Durham by allowing for impartiality and fairness. The role requires an organised and efficient person who has experience in public speaking. As an active SSCC representative for Combined Honours in Social Sciences, I have developed these skills by pushing for an agenda to establish cohort identity within first year students. These developed skills of building identity and attracting students will be pivotal to whoever is elected in order to boost the presence of Assembly to the student population. My main priority as chairman would be promoting the transparency and importance of Assembly alongside ensuring its smooth running from day-to-day business. Having been President of the Combined Honours Society and an elected Standing Orders member, I understand the process of organising formal meetings and ensuring openness between different parties to allow for harmony and consensus. Overall my nomination is summed up by three words: Fairness, Transparency and Publicity.

## Assembly Open Place

### 1. Thomas Pymer - Manifesto

Hi, I'm Tom and I would love to be the Open Officer of the Students' Union.

I have been involved with the SU from the word "go". I have run for everything from NUS delegate to Trustee to college SU rep. I know the politics of the SU.

This Assembly has amazing potential. We're the body which more than any other liaises with the University. However, there's way too much bad feeling. Assembly is demoralising and disillusioning. We can do better. Durham deserves better.

I do not want to always be a popular person. My promise is just to always do what I believe is right. And here is what I believe is right:

- The lowering of student fees



- Elected student representatives on every university governing body
- More free counselling sessions than the current four
- Expansion of the campaign for affordable student housing and reassuring students about housing
- Stamping out discrimination
- Supporting our amazing associations and societies
- Being calm, keeping a cool head. Whatever you may think, no problem was ever solved by being shouted at. This is what marks me out: I stay calm.

This is what I believe in. This is what I will bring to the Assembly.

## 2. Isobel Cheshire - Manifesto

Hi, I'm Izzie, a second year Anthropologist from Butler. I am passionate about student representation and would love to be a voice for all students on assembly. I have been active in the SU through my work as welfare on the LGBT+ Association exec, part of which has involved being an advocate for marginalised groups and making sure that the policies we pass are accessible for all. I have recently joined my department's Athena Swan committee to represent the voice of undergraduate students, and am also active in college committees such as welfare comm, and equality and diversity comm when I was Disability Rep. I have also passed motions at my college JCR meetings. As you can see I have lots of relevant experience in student politics and representing student voices. Plus, through my welfare background I am well placed to actively listen to the concerns of students and make sure that their needs are represented in the best way possible. There are lots of big changes happening in the university and I want to ensure that student voices do not get lost in the conversation.

## Governance & Grants Open Place

### 1. Connor Slomski - Manifesto

Hi, my name is Connor Slomski and I'm a student from Cuth's going into his fourth year at Durham. I've been heavily involved in many societies and have recently been elected onto the exec of one as Treasurer. Part of my platform was to increase financial transparency, which I believe not only helps the executive, but also helps the members understand where their money is going, how the club is funded and realistic aims and events for the club. I would like to extend this transparency to funding for student groups and societies, to bring the same benefits and ensure a system that is fair for all.

I am passionate about democracy, and as a student's union I recognise we are only as strong as our democratic mandate. That's why I want to increase student turnout in our elections, because the more students involved the more representative assembly and committees can be of the overall student body. Some ideas for this would be more targeted engagement based on relevant issues and better hustings events, more effectively shared on social media.

I hope you will consider voting for me, and I hope we can work together to achieve these aims.

### 2. Wan Aiman Azmi - Manifesto

I am running to ensure that the business of the Union is carried out effectively. The only way to do so is to hold our elected officials to account and ensure students' voices are heard in Assembly. It is no secret that the DSU is perceived negatively by many due to the feeling that it is a clique driven

body. Therefore, outreach to students must be the key priority of any Governance and Grants Committee. Getting more people involved in the DSU is the only way to get rid of this stigma. I have two years of experience in the Trevelyan College Steering Committee and I have been recently elected to be the Durham University Malaysian Society Vice President (Admin).

TO: Assembly  
 FROM: Megan Croll, President  
 RE: President's Report  
 DATE: 12 June 2018

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Below sets out the work being done on my objectives, pursuant to my remit, and work done pursuant to policies passed by Assembly.

***Work done on my objectives:***

Accommodation fees:

1. Bursaries

Following the University's commitment to looking into a more tiered bursary scheme, a new structure has been proposed and approved. The new scheme will better reflect the continuum of household income, as opposed to relying on defined brackets with minimum and maximum thresholds. I am currently pushing for a definite date for when the new scheme will be made available to students and additional details will be released by the University later in the year. While it is far from perfect, the bursary scheme does indicate that the University is listening to our concerns and is willing to make changes. This is a positive step forwards in financial support for our students.

2. College Accommodation Fees

On May 21<sup>st</sup> I met with Stuart Corbridge (VC), Owen Adams (Pro-Vice Chancellor, Colleges & Student Experience) and Sally McGill (Chief Financial Officer) to discuss college accommodation fee setting for the 2019/2020 academic year. I provided national and geographical accommodation fee comparisons, both illustrating that Durham is far more expensive than what is offered elsewhere, and also demonstrated how increases in college fees have been far higher than both RPI and CPI historically. I relayed quotes from the #RippedOff postcards and stated that if CPI increases had been used on accommodation fees since 2010/11, a standard catered room would cost £5,801 in 2017/18 (compared to the £7,171 that it actually costs now).

Stuart maintained that, despite this, he felt that college accommodation was 'good value for money' and that he was keen to look at what can be done with bursaries instead of with fees. The SFAAG meeting is on June 14<sup>th</sup> where I will be presenting a paper to the committee calling for a freeze in college accommodation fees with immediate effect. I will also be requesting that if fees do continue to rise, they must be in line with CPI, not RPI as was previously agreed by Mille Tanner (SU President 2015/16), and that we get a definite date for the new bursary scheme to come into effect. CPI is historically lower than RPI and has been outlined by the House of Commons Treasury Committee as being a more reliable measure.

I'd like to thank Assembly for their continued support in campaigning to cut college costs.

Student Consultation:

The Student Consultation Framework is now complete and has been reviewed by both JCR and MCR PresComm. It was due to go to UEC with Alan Houston's (PVC Education) sponsorship on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, however following further discussion within the University, this has now been delayed until at least June. I am hopeful that it will still go through UEC this academic year so that it will be in place for 18/19. This is an important step in ensuring the University consults with its students on decisions impacting them.

DSO Framework/Common Rooms Project:

The toolkit for DSO Common Rooms, designed to help them navigate and get the best out of the Framework, as well as providing information on how to become an independent charity, is almost complete. This will be finalized in time for the hand-over of JCR Presidents' Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> June, and will be available to all Common Rooms after this date. I would like to thank a number of former and current Common Room Presidents who have contributed greatly to this project.

***Work done because my remit requires me:***

Council – Council was held on 9<sup>th</sup> May. All papers were closed.

Senate – I attended Senate on 24<sup>th</sup> April, which included discussions of the now-complete effectiveness review of Boards of Studies, as well as extensive debate around the lecture capture policy.

Leadership Residential – The Union is planning a training residential for student leaders (understand as Durham SU Officers and Common Room leaders/people appointed by the union to speak on behalf of students) this summer. There is no coordinated learning, development or framework for student leaders' training so this would be really beneficial. Aims of the training include creating an understanding of the strategic priorities for students and the University in the year ahead, and ensuring leaders have the support needed to take care of each other, and also the people they lead.

Mount Oswald – As you will probably already have heard, the Mount Oswald project has been delayed. An announcement was made on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, stating that the project will be delayed until 2020.

Access – I'm pleased to report that we worked closely with the University on their new Access and Participation Plan. It was submitted to the OfS on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. While I am unable to reveal exact details at this time, I can say that a number of issues that we raised are reflected in the finished plan.

Annual Leaders Conference – Stuart Corbridge (VC) held an event at the Radisson on May 15<sup>th</sup> where he discussed the University's new strategy.

***Work mandated through democratic processes (i.e. Assembly passed policy):***

Divestment – Divestment has been approved and was announced on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Mitie Group – Despite our opposition, the University awarded the contract to the Mitie Group.

Cut College Costs – Update as above.

TO: Assembly  
FROM: Sabrina Seel, PG Academic Officer  
RE: Academic Report  
DATE: 12 June 2018

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***Work done on my objectives***

Postgraduate Voice: The second PG Forum took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> April, which was very well attended and featured a talk from Oxford researcher Poppy Brown on postgraduate mental health. This term has also saw a number of postgraduate academic reps meet with Alan Houston (PVC Education) to discuss a variety of topics from academic space to supervision.

PG Supervision, Induction Framework: I have met with Alan Houston (PVC Education) on a number of occasions to discuss PG Supervision arrangements, taking into account my recent report on the research undertaken into the area.

PG Mental Health: The week of 14<sup>th</sup> May marked Mental Health Awareness week, during which time the SU launched the Postgrad Mental Health Awareness campaign which I have been working on. The campaign has produced online resources and signposting, as well as producing posters and badges to raise awareness of key facts and statistics relating to Postgrad mental health, and illustrate the importance of the issue as a whole. All colleges and departments have received both posters and badges, and they were so well received that the Library even asked for extra stocks of both.

In addition, the Counselling Service – working with Northern Bridge, IAPETUS, and NINE Doctoral Training Partnerships – has received a HEFCE/OfS Catalyst Fund grant (which the University will match-fund) for a project to address Postgraduate Researchers' mental health and wellbeing. The project focuses on the role of the PhD supervisory relationship in mental health. The aim is to develop, by Spring 2020, an online educational resource to help supervisors and supervisees identify and address mental health issues that may impact their academic experiences, and support both to recognise the limits of the academic professional relationship for resolving any difficulties.

***Work done because my remit requires me:***

Senate attendance: I attended Senate on 24<sup>th</sup> April, which included discussions of the now-complete effectiveness review of Boards of Studies, as well as extensive debate around the lecture capture policy.

Council attendance: I attended Council on 9<sup>th</sup> May, where unfortunately all of the papers are currently closed.

Education Committee attendance: I attended Education Committee on 23<sup>th</sup> May, where among other items, we discussed the current and potential roles of Research Institutes in delivering courses and the opening of new postgraduate level courses in Creative Writing.

Research Committee attendance: I attended Research Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, where unfortunately all of the papers are currently closed.

Library Steering Group attendance: I attended the Library Steering Group on 30<sup>th</sup> May, where we discussed ideas on improving communication of library developments with students, as well as the pressures on library study spaces created by growing student numbers and how to react to them.

### **Other Academic Activity**

Lecture Capture: SU representatives have attended several meetings on the upcoming Lecture Capture initiative, which will be going live at the start of the 2018/19 academic year.

Library Catering and Study Space: SU representatives and members of JCR Presidents' Committee attended a number of meetings on the upcoming catering and additional study space in the Bill Bryson Library throughout April and May. This project will be commencing in June, for estimated completion in November at the latest.

Recruitment of a Director of the Durham Centre for Academic Development: I have been involved in the recruitment of the a Director for the new Durham Centre for Academic Development, who will be based in the newly-built Teaching and Learning building currently under construction on St Mary's field.

Academic Rep Celebration: There was a celebration of the hard work that Academic Reps do all over the University on the 8<sup>th</sup> June in the SU, where several reps received awards for their contributions to Academic Representation throughout the year and a brief update of academic news across Durham and the sector.

TO: Assembly  
FROM: Charlie Walker, Opportunities Officer  
RE: Opportunities Officer Report  
DATE: 12 June 2018

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Below sets out the work being done on my objectives, pursuant to my remit, and work done pursuant to policies passed by Assembly.

**Work done on my objectives:**

Mobilise student knowledge and passion to strategically tackle problems: We'll be delivering campaigns training at the Training Academy (13<sup>th</sup> June). I am talking to Tyne & Wear Citizens about how we can get students involved in their work and make Durham SU part of their network. They are hosting a Mental Health Commission in Aidan's (15<sup>th</sup> June). Megan will give evidence based on her experiences as a JCR President and this year. I have also been meeting with a few local charity partners and the County Durham Community Foundation to make links and see where we can work together. The University and City event was tough—there is a lot of frustration in the local community about the way students and the university behave. I'll be meeting the University's new Community Liaison Officer soon.

Increase access to amazing opportunities by streamlining processes: Research is complete and we hope to be able to progress some of this work through the Quinquennial Governance Review. Improvements to the registration and reregistration process are also underway. Quinquennial is a great word, isn't it?

Transparency and fairness of Durham's extra-curricular fees: Work on compiling a single list of all college and extracurricular costs is now underway with the university, led by Director of Operations in the WSE Division, Matt Deakin. I'll be using this as the basis for further work on costs.

**Work done because my remit requires me:**

Automatic voter registration. I am talking to Sheffield about how to make this work in Durham.

University work on behaviour is ongoing. JCR Presidents and the SU have given feedback on a potential new statement of values.

Societies Forum is 6<sup>th</sup> June. I will be able to give a verbal update at Assembly if requested.

I am secretly quite pleased to announce that we have actually overspent our grants budget this year, giving out more money to student groups than ever!

I went to Senate for the first time, and helped Megan be amazing and ask the Vice-Chancellor tough questions.

**Other projects:**

Living Wage: This proposal made it into the final budget proposal for the board of trustees meeting (13<sup>th</sup> June). Thank you to all of the campaigners, particularly Joe Dharampal-Hornby and DULC, who campaigned for this.

I fed back on the SU part of the University's Wider Student Experience strategy.

I continue to play a part in the Durham Award project, including in recruitment of a Director and interns for 2018/19.

I went to the National Societies Awards. We received five nominations and two wins, the most of any SU!

I was on the interview panel for the new Communications and Common Rooms intern.

I have been the officer lead on the SU Annual Awards.

I went to NUS Conference.

I met the new Chair of Colleges, Martyn Evans.

I'm looking forward to handover with the new officers, and have put in a bit of feedback about what that should look like based on my experiences last year.



TO: Assembly

FROM: Rosa Tallack, Welfare and Liberation Officer

RE: Officer Report

DATE: 12 June 2018

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Below sets out the work being done on my objectives, pursuant to my remit, and work done pursuant to policies passed by Assembly.

***Work done on my objectives:***

Outstanding Student Support: Following input from students and officers, we will be holding our first welfare peer support residential, which is taking place near the end of this month in Berwick-upon-Tweed. The residential will include training from professional facilitators in peer support and attendees include college and association welfare officers. We will be using evaluations from this training to encourage the university to partner with us to ensure our welfare officers receive the best support and training to contribute to outstanding student support across the university. I have also been working on writing our student vision statement for wellbeing and support, born out of the research we have done over the year.

Housing: After months of research, consultation, and lobbying, the University Executive Committee agreed to pilot a rent guarantor scheme. I am actively involved with contributing to the logistics and criteria around the pilot scheme, which will be open to international students as well as UK students with exceptional circumstances.

The Durham Tenants' Union held a member defence training session facilitated by ACORN this past month. Acorn training sessions are open to all students.

Women's Voices:

Pincident officially launched on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June. The tool not only covers incidents of sexual violence, but also incidents of other forms of harassment, assault, and violence, as well as bystander intervention. A number of student volunteers across colleges and associations helped with the launch by displaying posters and wearing the pin costumes around campus. There will be another launch during Fresher's Week in October.

The Women's Association is planning their first exec elections.

***Work done because my remit requires me:***

- I attended Wider Student Experience Committee with Charlie, where we discussed and helped shape the adapted WSE strategy, which will include welcome thought on student support and wellbeing (something I have been lobbying for this year, as the University's 10-year strategy failed to mention wellbeing once)

- I have been thinking a lot about active bystander training and modifying the way we deliver the training to make it more evidence-based. I am also keen to incorporate hate crime into the course, so the interventions are not limited to sexual violence.
- I attended the University's Sexual Violence and Misconduct Operations Group, where they agreed to endorse Pincident, and we had very worthwhile and necessary discussion about Consent Matters and consent workshops
- Attended the Chaplaincy and Faith Steering Group
- I have been involved in working with PresComm to give feedback on a first draft of a Student Community Agreement
- I have been working closely with Team Durham to improve the way they address the issue of initiations; the seriousness of which was exposed through a *Palatinate* investigation earlier this term
- I attended the University's annual summit with leaders across the university
- I attended a Fitness to Study Standing Group meeting
- I have been involved in recruiting two new positions at the university: the Coordinating Chaplain as well as the Community Liaison Officer

***Work mandated through democratic processes (i.e. Assembly passed policy):***

Zero Tolerance: Sexual Harassment: See above ('Women's Voices').

Rent Guarantor Scheme: It passed at UEC and all of the logistical details are currently being overseen by the University! See above ('Housing')

Free and Accessible Menstruation: There are now free sanitary products at reception!

### Report from the Board of Trustees

At its last meeting in April 2018, the Board discussed the frameworks for the Durham SU 2018 Annual Plan and Budget. A final proposal for these important documents will be presented to Board for approval on 13 June 2018.

### Trustee Appointments

The President chaired a meeting of the Board's Governance and Appointments Committee in April 2018. The Committee resolved to appoint three Trustees, subject to the ratification of Assembly. Assembly is therefore asked to ratify the resolution of the Governance and Appointments Committee:

1. Anthony Baker is the current Chair of the Board, and has been appointed to a term of officer from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2021. Anthony Baker Anthony is Artistic Director and joint CEO of Dance City, the North East's leading development organisation for dance, which exists to lead and support a thriving dance ecology in the region, presenting a [regular programme of dance performances](#) from contemporary to ballet, world to breakdance bringing leading North East, British and International dance to Newcastle. He has extensive experience providing strategic leadership, managing year to year budgets and developing and delivering business plans. He joined Durham SU as a trustee in 2015 and is also a Trustee of Northern Pride.
2. Oliver Colling is a partner at Morley Colling Associates, and has been appointed to a term of officer from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2021. Oliver is a Board level Financial Management advisor and hands on business leader who has spent the last 25 years improving enterprise performance across the private, public and not for profit sectors. He is a FCCA and ACA qualified accountant and a leading commentator on financial effectiveness issues in the national and trade press and am a member of the ACCA-IMA International Accountants for Business Panel. He joined Durham SU as a Trustee in 2015, and is a Durham graduate, from University College.
3. Martin Parker is an experienced commercial lawyer, and has been appointed to a term of officer from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2020. Martin is the General Counsel and Company Secretary of Northumbria Water, a former FTSE 250 company, which is the licensed water and sewage undertaker for the North East, employs 3000 people in a c£780 million turnover company, and serves over 4 million customers. He joined Durham SU as a Trustee in 2015 and has also served on the Durham University School of Education's Ethics Committee.

A vacancy has been carried into the summer, and a candidate will be presented to Assembly in Michaelmas term 2018.

TO: Assembly  
FROM: Stuart Goldie  
  
RE: 24hr Library  
  
DATE: 12 June 2018

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**Proposal for a clear policy setting process on library 24/7 opening**

**Proposer: Stuart Goldie** (Academic Affairs Committee: Science Postgraduate Faculty Rep)

**Assembly Notes:**

1. There is a growing trend among UK universities to offer full time 24/7 library access.
2. Durham has seen a number of campaigns to lobby for 24/7 library access over recent years, most recently from candidates for both Academic Officer positions.
3. However students are under increasing pressure to perform well at university. An FOI request to the University counselling service shows 1141 undergraduates (8.5% of student body) were seen by University counsellors last academic year (Oct 2016 – July 2017).
  - a. Of these, “the Counselling Team agree that a high percentage of students attending the Counselling Service, probably >90%, report that they are experiencing a degree of academic stress”.<sup>1</sup>
4. The Union has previously committed to a ‘stress less’ campaign, to try and encourage students to look after their physical and mental wellbeing whilst studying.

**Assembly Believes:**

5. That actively lobbying the University to spend funds facilitating all hours working may contribute to the growing problems with student mental health.
6. The University executive has publically stated they wish us to be an ‘evidence based university’, and therefore any changes to policy will require suitable evidence to support such action.
7. Union policy must be made based on an evidence based discussion, and the Union currently does not have firm evidence to support or discredit library 24/7 opening in Durham.

**Assembly Resolves:**

8. To mandate academic affairs committee and the academic officers to investigate the pros and cons of library 24/7 opening, including but not limited to:

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<sup>1</sup> “Either from self-imposed pressure to perform, the pressures of families and peers, or the experience of academic workload/higher education level work. For some these factors are causative to their distress, and for others it is the impact of conditions caused by other factors, that impact their ability to engage successfully and non-stressfully with their studies.”

- a. Student mental health implications
  - b. Effect on student learning experience
  - c. Current usage patterns and desire for permanent 24/7 opening
9. That the Union and its officers and representatives will refrain from taking any action to lobby the University on the issue of 24/7 library before the investigation has concluded; and a stance informed by the investigation can be adopted.
10. That this stance be presented as a discussion point at Assembly to allow informed decision making; and for a record to be made explaining the evidence and justification of the stance for future students.

It should be noted that this motion refers specifically to 24/7 opening all year round and does not endorse any decrease in standard library opening hours.

TO: Assembly

FROM: George Walker

RE: GMB Deal

DATE: 12 June 2018

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SU Motion: GMB Deal

**The Assembly notes:**

- Trade Union membership is generally beneficial for workers, including:
  - Support and advice in the workplace
  - Legal representation
  - Training, including to access to bursaries, personal development courses, etc.
  - The ability to organise workplace and political campaigns
  - Trade union workers, on average, are paid more
- More young people are being driven into insecure work, often on zero-hour contracts, often paid below the living wage
- Due to high rent and the abolition of grants, more students are being forced to take on such work to make ends meet
- Trade union membership is falling because young people are not joining as quickly as older members are leaving: put simply, young people are unaware of the benefits of trade unions.
- That the high level of student support for the recent UCU strikes demonstrated that students, when confronted with the issue, support trade unions and the right to strike

**The Assembly believes:**

- Young people would benefit from more education about, and more opportunities to join, trade unions
- Students Unions and trade unions share many of the same values, from promoting equal rights to fighting for better living standards
- Student Unions fight for the rights of students, but they are often unsupported when they enter the world of work. Educating students about trade unions would help them access support in their life post-university
- The GMB's deal with UEA's SU, in which student staff receive free trade union membership, paid for by the SU at a discounted cost of around £1/week, is a fantastic initiative which will boost trade union knowledge and membership among young people
- The SU's positive response to Durham University Labour Club's Living Wage campaign shows an encouraging level of commitment to protecting its own student workers

**The Assembly resolves:**

- To instruct the SU's Officers to open talks with the GMB and attempt to negotiate a deal, similar to the one agreed at UAE, for all student staff to receive free GMB membership
- To instruct the SU's Officers to open talks immediately, to take place over the summer
- To work with Durham University Labour Club to then encourage student staff to sign up to the deal
- If all students, not just SU-student staff, are included in the deal (which is open to negotiation), to then publicise this arrangement to all students to promote further trade union engagement across campus.

TO: Assembly  
FROM:  
  
RE: Antisemitism at Durham University  
  
DATE: 12 June 2018

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## **Policy on Antisemitism at Durham University**

### **Assembly Notes:**

1. There is currently no definition for antisemitism within the Union
2. Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).
3. Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.
4. Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.
5. The definition has already been adopted by the UK government to “ensure that culprits will not be able to get away with being antisemitic because the term is ill-defined, or because different organisations or bodies have different interpretations of it”.
6. The NUS and the European Commission have also adopted the definition.

### **Assembly Believes:**

1. There are many contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere, with examples such as
  - a. Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion
  - b. Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions
  - c. Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews
  - d. Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust)
  - e. Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
  - f. Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
  - g. Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour
  - h. Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation
  - i. Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g. claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis
  - j. Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis
  - k. Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel

2. Antisemitism today is more complex than the antisemitism of decades past, but the hatred it incites is equally dangerous.
3. Durham's student union should follow the above examples and endeavour to combat antisemitism in its contemporary form to prevent and combat an escalation of antisemitism in rhetoric or in action
4. The passing of the motion will also make Jewish students safe, welcome and valued members of the student community

**Assembly Resolves:**

1. To adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."
2. To aim to uphold a definition made by Jews to protect Jews, in order to adequately address contemporary concerns and manifestations of antisemitism on campus
3. To announce the definition has been adopted and the reasons for doing so
4. To refer to the definition in order to settle reported cases of antisemitism in the students' complaints procedure



TO: Assembly

FROM: Charlie Walker

RE: Changes to Standing Orders

DATE: 12 June 2018

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## **Background**

The Union's standing orders dictate what forums and committees (including their membership) should be. A review conducted by Officers and SU staff was conducted over Easter and Assembly is asked to approve the proposed changes.

## **Proposed changes – General**

- Removal of Media Forum
- Change Societies Committee into a Student Groups Committee with an amended membership.
- Removal of Environmental and Citizenship Committee.
- Remove any unnecessary gendered language.

## **Reasoning for changes – removal of Media Forum**

Our current standing orders state that the purpose of Media Forum is:

- To identify and discuss matters relating to student media
- To work to develop those groups and their members
- To enhance collaboration between Media Group members
- To receive updates regarding issues affecting student media
- To elect a Media Rep

Similarly to the issues regarding Societies Forum, we believe that the issues that affect Societies Committee also affect Media Forum. Last term, nobody attended Media Forum.

The Students' Union has a very strong relationship with Media Groups so we believe there would be no detrimental impact to the removal of Media Forum.

In relation to the elect of a media rep, we would be able to conduct this through an online ballot which is how we would elect the Society Reps in the event that Societies Forum was removed.

## **Reasoning for changes – change Societies Committee into a Student Groups Committee with an amended membership.**

Our current standing orders state that the purpose of Societies Committee is:

- To identify and discuss matters relating to Student Groups excluding Associations
- To review and recommend changes to the Student Group Agreement
- To identify, draft, adopt or recommend policy on issues relating to student groups

- To work to develop Student Groups and their members
- To enhance collaboration between Student Groups
- To work to improve the governance and support available to Student Groups
- Attend Societies Forum to help facilitate discussion
- To work with and advise the Opportunities Officer

Societies Committee currently works well its current format but we are recommending adding two new roles to the membership of the committee. Those roles would be:

- Media Rep (who would liaise with Media Groups)
- Association Liaison Rep – a member of an Association exec

While the Associations also sit on Welfare, Equality and Diversity Committee and meet informally through the Union's facilitated Association Collaboration – they are not given an opportunity to directly feedback on the more operational issues facing associations as the other committees that they belong to focus on the political/campaigning side of their role.

We would also rename the committee to Student Groups committee to better reflect the new membership.

#### **Reasoning for changes – removal of Environmental and Citizenship Committee.**

Since the combination of Community Committee and Environmental and Ethics Committee two years ago – Environmental and Citizenship Committee has only met once each academic year.

Our current standing orders state that the purpose of Environmental and Citizenship Committee is:

- To identify and discuss ethical and environmental matters
- To raise awareness and lead campaigns on ethical and environmental issues among Members of the Union and Durham community
- To identify, draft, adopt or recommend policy on issues relating to ethics, the environment and active citizenship
- To discuss matters relating to students as members of the Durham and Stockton communities
- To work to improve the experience of living out whilst at University
- To work to improve relations between students and permanent residents of the communities
- To work with and advise the President and Opportunities Officer

The vast amount work done on the issues across Durham is done by People and Planet who we have consulted with and they do not believe there will be any detrimental effects to removing this committee.

#### **Reasoning for changes – Remove any unnecessary gendered language.**

Within the appeals section of our election rules, there is unnecessary gendered language that states 'If the appellant is not satisfied with the outcome of the appeal, he or she can make a complaint under the Union's complaints procedure'. We would replace this with gender neutral language as this currently shows a lack of sensitivity for gender diversity.

TO: Assembly

FROM: Rosa Tallack

RE: Changes to Standing Orders

DATE: 12 June 2018

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### **Background**

The Union's standing orders dictate what forums and committees (including their membership) should be. A review conducted by Officers and SU staff was conducted over Easter and Assembly is asked to approve the proposed changes.

### **Proposed changes**

- Removal of Welfare, Equality and Diversity Committee

### **Reasoning for changes – Removal of Welfare, Equality and Diversity Committee (WEDComm)**

Our current standing orders identify the role of WEDComm as being:

- To facilitate and organise cross-college campaigns relating to the welfare, equality and diversity of its members;
- To facilitate welfare representatives to collaborate and to discuss and share best practice;
- To shape the work of the Welfare & Liberation Officer with regard to campaigns around welfare, equality or diversity;
- To work with and advise the Welfare & Liberation Officer;
- To identify, draft, adopt or recommend policy on issues relating to welfare, equality and diversity;
- To support Associations in their representation of all students

However, it is recognised that:

- When constituents of WEDComm from Associations and common rooms are elected, they have, primarily, run for their position in order to dedicate their time to their respective group. Therefore, the desire (attributable to the existence of WEDComm itself, and not other campaigning student groups that exist outside of WEDComm) to facilitate and organise cross-college campaigns is very low. There is a feeling from at least the last three chairs of the committee (spanning three years) that the constitutional onus to organise campaigns and write policy places undue pressure and stress onto members. This has the effect of discouraging members to engage with WEDComm for its potential as a supportive, best-practice-sharing forum.
- WEDComm has, for at least the last three years, been relatively poorly attended.
- In at least the past three years, to our knowledge, WEDComm has never made use of its powers to adopt policy.

- There has been significant work by the Welfare and Liberation Officer over the past year to enhance the SU's role in supporting those who provide peer support, in Associations and Colleges. This will remain an area of development and focus.

It is proposed, therefore, that:

- Welfare, Equality and Diversity Committee is removed as an official committee of Assembly, in place of a non-constitutional network of students involved in issues related to Welfare, Equality and Diversity.
  - This would not preclude policy proposals or recommendations from being brought to Assembly, nor would it preclude action on university-wide issues related to welfare, equality and diversity.
  - Such a change would, it is hoped, improve engagement from those who would benefit from the supportive, best-practice-sharing that such a group has the potential to provide, but do not necessarily run for their roles wanting to be mandated to organise campaigns and write policy by an SU committee that they are automatically co-opted onto.
  - Around 35 peer supporters from Associations and Colleges are going away on a 3-day residential at the end of June. It is hoped that this will become an annual event, and that the supportive network established at the residential will endure throughout the year, supported to meet and communicate regularly by Durham SU.

**DURHAM STUDENTS' UNION**

**APPLICATION TO BECOME A NEW STUDENT SOCIETY**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Any students wishing to set up their own student society must, before submitting their application for registration online, be required to confirm that they have read, understood and will comply with the terms and conditions which we have set out in Appendix 1.

Some sample wording for capturing that consent is contained in Appendix 2. Please note that the wording in bold will need to have a hyperlink to the terms and conditions.

## APPENDIX 1

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By submitting your application to register your new student society (**Society**), you certify that:

1. All of the information that you have provided in the application and in support of the application is true, complete and accurate.
2. You will promptly co-operate with the Societies Committee in relation to your application should the Committee require you to, for example, clarify anything in your application, provide additional information to support your application, or meet to discuss your application.
3. You acknowledge that the Societies Committee reserves the right not to accept your application (and will give you reasons for not doing so) and that the Committee's decision is final. However, if your application is not accepted, you may reapply with a revised application; Durham Students' Union will support you with revising your application should you wish.
4. All persons noted in the application have given you their consent for their details to be included in the application and for those details to be shared with Durham Students' Union (and the Societies Committee) for the purpose of processing this application and for the purpose of monitoring the Society (should the application for registration be successful). You similarly consent to your personal details being shared and processed for this purpose.
5. If your application is successful:
  - a. You will be required to comply at all times with the terms of your Society's constitution (including any relevant rules, regulations, policies etc of the Durham Students' Union and of Durham University referred to in that).
  - b. You will be required to comply at all times with the Student Group Agreement (as may be amended from time to time).
  - c. All Executive Committee members will be required to attend such training as required by Durham Students' Union, including one induction training session. That session will be held on the following dates: **[INSERT DATES]**.
  - d. You will be required to re-register at the end of every academic year and continue to meet the requirements of the Societies Committee and have demonstrated compliance with the terms of your registration and the Student Group Agreement throughout the previous year. Re-registration is not guaranteed. If your application for re-registration is not successful you will be given reasons for this and may re-apply for re-registration with a revised application; Durham Students' Union will support you with revising your application for re-registration should you wish.
6. Any breach of these terms and conditions will result in your application being rejected or, if the breach is discovered after your application has been accepted, your Society's registration may be revoked at the discretion of the Societies Committee.
7. Notwithstanding this, Durham Students' Union reserves the right to take such steps as are necessary to revoke the registration of any Society where it believes it is necessary to protect the interests or reputation of Durham Students' Union and/or Durham University.
8. These terms and conditions may be updated and amended by us, the Durham Students' Union board of trustees, from time to time.

## APPENDIX 2

### CONSENT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS WORDING

**PLEASE NOTE:**

By submitting your application to register as a new Student Society, you confirm that you have read, understood and will comply with our terms and conditions, which are available for you to read [HERE](#).

**SUBMIT**

## Committee Updates

### **Societies Committee Update**

#### **1. SU Processes; (with the aim of making things more simple and transparent)**

- a. Reviewed student group resources section of the website
  - i. Currently underway, re-mapping what resources sit where and are they useful/outdated (activity planning, finance) amendments coming over summer.
  - ii. Designed intuitive forms to capture information (removing paper forms), provided template examples of risk assessments to ensure safe events.
  - iii. Room booking system, developed a transparent system to allow students & student groups to see what's going on where (upload over summer once the ballroom works have been factored in).

#### **2. SG Collaboration; (offering incentives for student groups to come together and share space)**

- a. Student Group/Volunteer dispute/disciplinary policy developed and submitted for review at the next assembly.
- b. Incentives for collaboration (financial & space) on hold until a review of the governance committee and available funds, application processes.

#### **3. Training; (what do you need in order to survive your first year as a society)**

- a. Student group development plans;
  - i. Aims to capture SG aims and objectives in light of sustainability & growth, plans allow us to check in with the groups after a year to see what went well and highlight any areas for development.
  - ii. Societies Committee information & role guide;
    1. Information piece which outlines the roles and responsibility of being a committee member (more or less finished just awaiting word on media forum being incorporated then will amend the guide).
  - iii. Student Group training academy.
    1. June 2018

**47 students group ratified this year.**



### Governance & Grants Committee Update

The below table outlines all grants that have been given out to student groups in the 17/18 academic year by Governance & Grants Committee.

Ass. funding	Mature Students	£ 500.00
Ass. funding	International Students	£ 500.00
Ass. funding	LGBT+	£ 500.00
Ass. funding	Students with Disabilities	£ 500.00
Ass. funding	People of Colour	£ 500.00
cultural	Indonesian	£ 500.00
cultural	Malaysian	£ 238.00
cultural	People of Colour	£ 500.00
cultural	DH1 records	£ 325.00
Nightline	Nightline	£ 1,000.00
Ordinary (1)	Art & life drawing	£ 295.00
Ordinary (1)	Assassins	£ 579.83
Ordinary (1)	Calisthenics	£ 1,000.00
Ordinary (1)	Change ringers	£ 800.00
Ordinary (1)	Cypriot	£ 777.83
Ordinary (1)	Dancesport	£ 1,000.00
Ordinary (1)	Days for Girls	£ 200.00
Ordinary (1)	Definite Article	£ 243.50
Ordinary (1)	Fitness	£ 210.00
Ordinary (1)	Durham for Economic Pluralism	£ 357.10
Ordinary (1)	Education Society	£ 248.40
Ordinary (1)	Erasmus	£ 300.00
Ordinary (1)	E-sports	£ 659.40
Ordinary (1)	General Larp	£ 425.97
Ordinary (1)	Guitar Hero	£ 100.00
Ordinary (1)	Harry Potter	£ 297.40
Ordinary (1)	Humanist	£ 856.40
Ordinary (1)	Jazz	£ 333.00
Ordinary (1)	Latin Social Dance	£ 240.00
Ordinary (1)	Lego	£ 240.87
Ordinary (1)	LGBT+	£ 150.00
Ordinary (1)	Malaysian	£ 762.00
Ordinary (1)	Mixed martial arts	£ 597.56
Ordinary (1)	Model Westminster	£ 385.00
Ordinary (1)	Philosophy	£ 56.80
Ordinary (1)	Photography	£ 1,000.00
Ordinary (1)	Science Journalism	£ 145.00
Ordinary (1)	Sci-fi & Fantasy	£ 150.00
Ordinary (1)	Scuba Diving	£ 998.33

Ordinary (1)	Singapore	£ 150.00
Ordinary (1)	Slacklining	£ 120.00
Ordinary (1)	Tea	£ 263.40
Ordinary (1)	Thai Boxing	£ 1,288.79
Ordinary (1)	United Nations	£ 1,000.00
Ordinary (1)	Vinyl Records	£ 264.39
Ordinary (1)	Werewolf	£ 58.78
Ordinary (2)	Catholic	£ 952.00
Ordinary (2)	Circus	£ 300.00
Ordinary (2)	DH1 Records	£ 123.99
Ordinary (2)	Durham Dutchies	£ 225.00
Ordinary (2)	games	£ 309.07
Ordinary (2)	improvised comedy	£ 695.20
Ordinary (2)	Krav Maga	£ 814.90
Ordinary (2)	Purple Radio	£ 435.66
Ordinary (2)	Sci-fi & Fantasy	£ 70.99
Ordinary (2)	Speleological	£ 419.00
Ordinary (2)	Bar	£ 300.00
Ordinary (2)	Belly Dancing	£ 200.00
Ordinary (2)	Chess	£ 770.00
Ordinary (2)	Chinese Tea Art	£ 200.00
Ordinary (2)	Christian Union	£ 200.00
Ordinary (2)	Economic Pluralism	£ 642.90
Ordinary (2)	gospel	£ 200.00
Ordinary (2)	Hungarian	£ 189.80
Ordinary (2)	international students	£ 300.00
Ordinary (2)	Italian	£ 450.00
Ordinary (2)	Latin Social Dance	£ 210.00
Ordinary (2)	Model Westminster	£ 196.00
Ordinary (2)	Nigerian	£ 400.00
Ordinary (2)	People of Colour	£ 170.00
Ordinary (2)	Poetry	£ 296.74
Ordinary (2)	Quidditch	£ 580.00
Ordinary (2)	Rock	£ 340.00
Ordinary (2)	SEDs	£ 545.00
Ordinary (2)	Vietnamese	£ 77.00
Ordinary (2)	Amnesty International	£ 378.02
Ordinary (2)	Assassins	£ 71.55
Ordinary (2)	Applied social Sciences	£ 125.00
Ordinary (2)	Conservative	£ 397.55
Ordinary (2)	Engineers without borders	£ 164.43
Ordinary (2)	heads up	£ 800.00
Ordinary (2)	Philosophy	£ 861.30
Ordinary (2)	Sexpression	£ 700.00

Ordinary (2)	WISE	£ 233.12
Special	Computing	£ 750.00
Special	Electric Motorsport	£ 1,000.00
Start up	Circus	£ 200.00
Start up	Horse Racing	£ 200.00
Start up	Students for sensible drug policy	£ 100.00
Start up	Kenjutsu	£ 100.00
Start-up	Blood Donation	£ 200.00
Start-up	Fitness	£ 189.00
Start-up	Latin Social Dance	£ 200.00
Start-up	Dodgeball	£ 181.74
Start-up	Vinyl Records	£ 195.84
Start-up	Game of Thrones	£ 158.77
Start-up	Hungarian	£ 48.95
Start-up	United Nations Women	£ 15.00
Start-up	Glitter	£ 197.17
Start-up	Ecumenical Christian Council	£ 200.00
Start-up	Young European Movement	£ 72.92

### Totals

Start up: £2259

Special: £1750

Ordinary: £30898

Cultural: £1563

Association: £2500

TO: Assembly

FROM: NUS Delegates

RE: NUS National Conference

DATE: 12 June 2018

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### **NUS Delegate report**

On the 27 – 29 March 2018, 5 Durham students attended NUS National Conference in Glasgow to vote on policy and in elections on behalf of Durham University students. The delegates elected by students were:

- Helen Paton
- Tom Harwood
- Clara Gallay
- George Walker

They were joined by SU President, Megan Croll who attends as President as an ex-officio delegate by virtue of being President.

### Elections Results

President:

- Shakira Martin

VP Higher Education

- Amatey Doku

VP Welfare:

- Eva Crossan Jory

VP Society & Citizenship:

- Zamzam Ibriham

VP Union Development:

- Ali Milani

### Voting Records on motions

### **100 - Priority Zone**



Motion Number	Motion Name	For	Against	Abstained
PC101	Student poverty	George Clara Megan Helen		
PC101a	Student finance	George Clara Megan Helen		
PC101b	Pay student loans before the course date	George Clara Megan Helen		
PC101c	Student Loans for everyone	George Clara Megan		Helen

**200 - Education Zone**

Motion Number	Motion Name	For	Against	Abstained
FE101	This Story is getting old... time for investment in FE/College our voices to be heard!	George Clara Megan		Helen
HE101	Tackling the Black Attainment Gap	George Megan Helen		
HE101a	Replacement amendment	Helen		George Clara
HE102	Students and Brexit	George Megan	Helen	
HE102a	Not Letting the Door Hit Us On The Way Out	George Megan	Helen	
HE102b	Resisting the Brexit Brain Drain	George Megan	Helen	
HE102c	Ensure that the UK Government will commit to the continuity of the Erasmus Programme following Brexit	George Helen		
HE102d	Freedom of movement	George Helen		
HE103	High course costs are destroying student mental health	George Clara Megan Helen		

HE103a	Smash the Class Ceiling - scrap audition fees at Universities	George Clara Megan Helen		
HE103b	Graduation – the final hidden cost	Megan George Helen		Clara
FE102	The Scourge of Day 42	George Clara Megan		Helen
He104	Quality of Teaching	George Clara Megan Helen		
FE103	There is progression data for most learners! why not us?	George Clara Megan		Helen
HE105	Postgraduate Tuition Fees and Funding	George Megan Helen		
HE105a	Post Graduate Loans System	George Megan Helen		

### 300 - Union Development Zone

Motion Number	Motion Name	For	Against	Abstained
UD101	Our Unions have, and always will be, Political	Clara Megan Helen		
UD101a	Defend SUs – Stop Victimisation	Clara Megan		Helen
UD102	A new strategy for engaging disability specialist students' union	Clara Helen		
UD102a	One size doesn't fit all	Clara Megan Helen		
UD103	Media Response Unit	Clara Megan Helen		
UD104	'Welfare and Inclusivity' positions on SU Sports Team Committees	Clara Megan Helen		
UD105	National Postgraduate	Megan		

	Representation	Helen		
UD106	Protecting Students in Nightclubs and Bars	Megan Helen		
UD107	Hello, is it Nightline you're looking for?	Megan Helen		
UD108	Unions should pay the real living wage, as defined by the Living Wage Foundation	Megan Helen		
UD109	Asset learner forum	Megan Helen		
UD110	Updating the Education Act	Megan Helen		
UD111	Defending Freedom of Speech	George Helen	Megan	
UD111a	Affirm Conference's Commitment to Freedom of Speech	Helen	Megan George	

**400 - Welfare Zone**

Motion Number	Motion Name	For	Against	Abstained
W101	Mental Health – From The Roots Up	George Clara Helen		
W101a	Mental Health – From The Roots Up	George Clara Megan Helen		
W101b	Meaningful Mental Health campaigns not Puppy Rooms	Helen	George Megan	
W101c	Supporting officers dealing with student suicide	Megan Helen (for speech given) George Clara		
W101d	Actual Action on Students Mental Health	George Clara Megan Helen		

**500 - Society and Citizenship Zone**

Motion Number	Motion Name	For	Against	Abstained
SC101	Ending single use plastics	George		

		Clara Megan Helen		
SC101a	ADD amendment	George Clara Helen		
SC101b	DELETE & REPLACE amendment	Clara	George Megan	Helen
SC102	International not isolationism	George Clara Megan Helen		
SC102a	ADD amendment	George Clara Megan Helen		
SC102b	Child refugees and the DUB	George Clara Megan		Helen
SC102c	Refugee scholarships in every University	George Clara Megan Helen		

### **George Walker - Report**

I was very pleased to be able to attend NUS Conference in March as one of Durham SU's five delegates. National NUS Conference is an event that allows delegates from SUs around the country to come together to decide on NUS' policy priorities for the year ahead and elect the President and the five Vice-Presidents of NUS.

On the whole the quality of policy sent to Conference was very high and I was pleased to see NUS debate and pass policy on many key issues that affect students in Durham, including on issues which I raised in my own manifesto for NUS delegate. Motions were debated and passed on a range of issues such as Student poverty, Brexit, the black attainment gap, FE funding and mental health, with important contributions from Durham delegates, in particular on the very important mental health motion which was passed by conference. It was good to see NUS addressing issues that are of great relevance to students across the country, especially as this has been something that NUS has been criticised for in the past.

The delays and disruption on the second day of conference were disappointing. It was an ongoing issue throughout the Conference that there was simply not enough time to debate all of the policy that had been submitted to conference and it is understandable that people felt strongly about this, especially given the effort that goes into writing motions and the personal connection many may have had to the issues being discussed. Regarding the two motions at the centre of the controversy,





I would have voted for both the motion on abortion laws in Northern Ireland and the motion on student sex workers had the motions reached conference floor and I am pleased that both motions have since been passed by NUS' National Executive Committee (NEC).

The time lost meant that motions on a number of other key issues were not discussed. I think this was a great shame as there were excellent policies on issues such as solidarity with Trade Unions, the Grenfell Tower fire and combatting far-right racism that I would have liked to have been able to support and see become NUS policy. As a result of the delays I was also unable to put my policy on Tenants' Unions to Conference, although again I hope that this will be made NUS policy by the NEC.

Having been to National Conference it is clear that NUS needs to address a number of issues regarding the accessibility of its democracy. It was sometimes unclear exactly what was happening or what delegates were being asked to vote on at a given time, making it harder to fully take part, especially for first-time delegates. The breaks given to delegates were also insufficient given the intense nature of the event and even the breaks originally scheduled were cut further following the disruption on the second day. This made the conference particularly difficult for students with disabilities such as myself. The NUS also must continue to answer serious questions about how we eradicate racism and anti-Semitism from student politics, which yet again was faced by some delegates in attendance.

Despite the shortcomings of NUS and the conference, it was incredibly positive to see productive debate on a number of important issues affecting the lives of students in Durham and across the UK. NUS has made progress and there are many great people within the organisation that recognise the need to go further in building a National Union that is able to fight effectively for students. Given this, as well as much of the good and relevant work done by NUS, the vital support provided by NUS to Students' Union groups and Officers and the ability that being a part of our National Union gives Durham students to project our voice on the national stage, I remain confident that Durham students are better off if our National Unions remains part of NUS.

For those who are interested, as well as my voting record on motions, these are the candidates I voted for in the elections for Full-Time NUS Officers:

President: Shakira Martin  
 Vice-President Higher Education: Amatey Doku  
 Vice-President Welfare: Izzy Lenga  
 Vice-President Society & Citizenship: Abdi Duale  
 Vice-President Union Development: Jess Levy

### **Helen Paton – Report**

As soon as we got to the wonders of the city of Glasgow, we knew it would be an eventful couple of days full of student politics; from elections to motions and even a protest. As one of the delegates my main plan was to try and represent Durham's reality in the national floor. My priorities were to make the NUS closer to what student's struggle on a daily basis, such as mental health and accommodation fees. I was elected on reform platform and I know how the NUS can be out of touch with most students across the country, but I believe it has potential to be taken more seriously. As a



delegate I made sure to live stream the conference on all platforms of social media such as Facebook, Instagram and content on Snapchat. This content had more than 2,000 views, which I believe is progress as a student myself I did not understand what happened in conference the year before. Social media is a great way of making people engage further within student politics as it does matter to all of us but most people feel they cannot engage because it is far from them.

The conference is divided in 6 zones, where motions are categorised: Priority Zone, Education Zone, Union Development, Welfare, Society and Citizenship and AGM. Many SU's proposed motion or amendments to conference, in our case, Durham took 3. These 3 were Actual Action on Mental Health, Housing and LGBT representation for delegate elections. As a delegate you are entitled to have a voting card and speak for or against motions. There are more than 500 delegates from all across the country gathered for the weekend. Conference receives hundreds of motions, so they have to filter most of them and because of time, not all of them will be able to be debated. During conference, the only of our motions to be debated was Actual Action on Mental Health, which was proposed by my SU Rep for Trevelyan College, Darcy Evan Eerten and I had the chance to speak for it at the conference floor, the motion passed unanimously. Within motions I voted for all those that impact us directly instead of diversifying into national politics such as Votes at 16 or Justice Grenfell, for the sole reason that the NUS should focus first on tackling student's needs and issues, which are the main reason why we united at conference. National politics do have an impact but there's need to be priorities in order to be taken seriously.

In terms of elections, there were 3 candidates for NUS presidency. Those being Shakira Martin, Monim Saqib and Sahaya James. I voted to re-elect Shakira Martin because she has made the NUS progress within national politics and I have seen results during her presidency. She was successfully re-elected and she was the candidate that represented the moderates of conference, all Durham delegates voted for her in the end. The other elections were the VP's and Block of 15.

As I told you, it was an eventful weekend as there was a lot of canvassing and campaigning for those running for elections, in my opinion that distracted slightly the debate but it is equally important as those officers are the ones who will be working on the motions debated. As you read this, you may have heard about the protest that took place during conference. As Durham delegates we did not partake in the occupation of the stage. Conference has set period of times to debate motions and there's a guillotine, when it falls, time is over and we move to the next zone of motions. When the guillotine fell for the Welfare motions, there was a vote to extend it and debate more motions, but democracy spoke and it lost. After that, students took over the stage for a period of 5 hours protesting about "Decriminalization of Northern Ireland and Students" and "Sex work". We all wanted to debate those motions and we all understood their motives to do so. It was not the time or place as SU's all across the country spend a lot of money to send their delegates and debate motions that matter to all students. We all respected the times and this protest took so much time as well as making headline for the wrong reasons, which put at risk the image of the NUS once again. Nobody says we don't support them, that's not the case, we as Durham delegates disagree that was the measure to take as the motion would be debated within NUS NEC rather than conference because of time. For this reason a lot of our motions could not be debated and we had to use the time to listen to candidates and election speeches as well as voting. I was specially a bit disappointed that One

student, One vote was not debated on the floor but do not worry, I will keep you posted on that as it was one of my main manifesto pledges.

I never expected a protest but it was a great moment to take part and represent Durham with fellow delegates, we all bonded and I worked my best to vote according to what you as students want for our education. As I said, a very eventful weekend. Helen out.

PS: I'll make a video of this report to share it and make it more accessible to the Durham community.



### **Volunteer and Student Group Disciplinary Policy and Procedure**

Durham SU is committed to supporting volunteers and student groups to fulfil their aims and objectives in a way that is inclusive for all. All students elected into student group committee roles, or who are in a particular volunteer role, have a responsibility to ensure that all students have a fantastic experience and are not exposed to foreseeable harm. Volunteers have a responsibility for ensuring that their behaviour does not put themselves or others at risk. Those groups or members who fail to fulfil this responsibility may be subject to disciplinary action. This policy considers 'student groups' to include Societies, Media Groups, Associations and Durham University Charities Committee (DUCK). It also applies to volunteers such as members of Assembly or student representatives on University Committees including Course Reps.

Volunteers may be subject to disciplinary actions for one or more of the below, which is not an exhaustive list:

- Failure to comply with the Durham SU Articles of Association, Standing Orders, Student Group Agreement, Societies Constitution or any other governing document or policy.
- Action which undermines the mission, aims and values of Durham SU.
- Failure to act in a responsible manner when participating in and/or organising student group activities which may lead Durham SU or Durham University to be brought into disrepute.
- Engaging in behaviour that can be construed as threatening, intimidating, offensive or violent.
- Engaging in behaviour that can be deemed as bullying or harassment.
- Engaging in behaviour or organising activities that may be deemed unlawful.
- Misuse or intentional damage of society, Union or University resources, equipment and/or spaces.
- Misuse of funds on expenditure that does not benefit the membership, in line with the student groups aims.
- Behaviour that is disrespectful towards students, staff or members of the public.
- Hosting events with external guests without having guests approved under the Guest Speaker process.
- Failure to undertake risk assessments for student group events and activities.
- Inappropriate communications via social media, emails or on any public platform.
- Breaches of data protection, health and safety, or equality and diversity regulations.

If the issue is considered significantly serious Durham SU reserves the right to suspend the opportunity to volunteer and/or membership of a student group whilst investigations are undertaken in line with this procedure. This may apply to all opportunities, and not just the one which gives cause to a complaint. This is not a disciplinary sanction in itself, and will be subject to regular review by a Durham SU senior manager. There may be reasonable restrictions imposed at this time, such as not making contact with society members or attendance at society events.

#### **Reporting:**

Concerns should be initially raised via email to [su.admin@durham.ac.uk](mailto:su.admin@durham.ac.uk). The email should include an account of what has occurred, and any supporting evidence. If the issue is considered serious enough that continued membership of Durham SU is in question then this policy may not be appropriate, and the matter may be referred to the Governance and Appointments Committee of the Board of Trustees by the Durham SU Chief Executive.

The Durham SU Chief Executive may also refer a complaint to the University if this is considered appropriate, but will also require the SU to complete its own procedures, to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to protect other student volunteers and the SU itself.

**Informal Stage:**

Before moving to the formal stage under this procedure an attempt to resolve the issue may be undertaken informally between the person making a complaint and the subject/s of the concern, if all parties are comfortable and willing to do so. If the issue is resolved informally the process will end and will not be progressed any further.

**Formal Stage:**

If the informal stage of this procedure is unsuccessful or deemed inappropriate for the particular case then the formal stage as outlined below will be used. All issues will be investigated by the relevant departmental manager (or a suitable member of staff nominated by the Chief Executive).

- The subject/s of the complaint will be invited to meet with the manager (or designated staff member) to discuss the issue and provide their version of events. This will be within 10 working days of the formal stage of this procedure being enacted.
- Any evidence relating to the incident will be shared with the subject/s of the complaint in advance of the initial meeting wherever possible.
- The manager (or designated staff member) will make contact with any witnesses to the incident following the initial meeting with the subject/s of the complaint.
- Within 10 working days of the initial meeting the outcome of the investigation will be communicated to the subject/s in writing. If the complaint is upheld, the written communication will clearly outline the reasons why, the sanction/s imposed and the process for appeals against the decision made.
- After 10 working days, if more time is required to investigate the issue this will be communicated to the subject/s of the complaint by the Opportunities Manager.

Durham SU will seek to meet any request for reasonable adjustments to be made for access needs. There isn't an automatic right to be accompanied to these meetings by a colleague or friend, but Durham SU will consider a request to be supported by another student if necessary.

**Sanctions:**

One or more of the following sanctions can be applied if a complaint is upheld:

- Formal written warning sent to those concerned, warning about future conduct and the consequences of any further disciplinary issues.
- Requirement to write a letter of apology for their conduct.
- Suspension of a volunteer or committee member/s from the activities of the committee (not limited to a particular opportunity or committee).
- Suspension of a volunteer or committee member/s from the activities of the group (not limited to a particular opportunity or group).
- Requirement to make good any damages, including payment as appropriate.
- Suspension of the student group's activities.
- Freezing of the student group's financial account.
- Cancellation of a particular activity or a series of activities as deemed appropriate by Durham SU.
- Removal of a volunteer or committee member/s from their position/s (not limited to a particular committee).
- Removal of membership to a student group (not limited to a particular committee).

**Appeals:**

If subject/s of a disciplinary case are unhappy with the outcome of the investigation they can appeal within 10 working days of receipt of the outcome to a Durham SU senior manager via email to

[su.admin@durham.ac.uk](mailto:su.admin@durham.ac.uk).

Durham SU will only accept an appeal on grounds that new evidence which was not previously available has now become clear, or because there has been a procedural irregularity. There is no right to appeal on grounds of disagreement with the findings of the previous stage. The grounds for the appeal should be clearly communicated in the appeals email and any new evidence should be included.

The senior manager will investigate the issue and consider any new evidence submitted with the appeal and may decide to:

- Dismiss the appeal
- Uphold the appeal, and either reduce or remove the sanction.

The senior manager will communicate the outcome of the appeal in writing within 10 working days. There is no further appeals process at this stage.

**Records**

Durham SU will keep a record of all complaints received, and the action taken, and keep appropriate records until the end of the academic year following the year the complaint was received. All records will be kept in line with Durham SU's data protection policies.