

Durham Students' Union Assembly - Minutes

Friday, 16 June 2017– 19:00, ER201

UA/1617/063

Welcome

Andy Corkhill welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies for absence and Conflicts of interest

Andy Corkhill announced apologies received from Megan Croll, George Peat, George Stanbury, Tom Henderson, Harry Cross and Dominic Robson.

Courtney Cliffe declared a conflict of interest for He for She Society and Ted Lavis Coward outlined a conflict for the trans policy.

Minutes of the meeting on 09 May

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.

Update on Officer Work

Alice Dee updated on her work. Alice explained that she is drafting a paper to go to UEC regarding a consultation framework. The SU strategy has been approved by the Board of Trustees. The #RippedOff campaign is going well and has three successes so far - the three wins of the #RippedOff campaign were a review of the cost, an option of differential pricing and reviews of bursary provision. Highlights of the year were working on access, officer restructure, sexual violence lobbying and working with NUS. James Creer asked about what sort of opportunities will be available for Stockton students, Alice had suggested talking to Teesside SU about providing activities to Durham students in order to keep the campus vibrant. In regards to the university hardship fund, the criteria had been altered in order to support Queens's students in the transition.

Lisa Whiting updated on her work including celebrating course reps achievements. Postgraduate representation guidelines have passed through the University and working on postgraduate pay issues. Other issues have been working against the closure of social work programmes, the decisions have been delayed following more consultation. Lisa explained that she had investigated that when international fixed fees was introduced to clarify why some students fees had gone up. The eating space pilot in the library has been completed and has been moved to a larger space from next academic year. Highlights for the year included focussing on postgraduates, HE bill and TEF, student response to the academic year changes and course rep elections. James Creer asked about the changes to the academic year are now. First term will be the same; second term may increase by a week and third term the same with a potential reduction in one week of Easter.

Kara-Jane Senior updated on her work on her student activities participation and impact report which has been taken to the student experience subcommittee and an action plan is in development to take forward the recommendations. In terms of recognition and celebration of student activities Kara spoke about the annual awards, supporting groups to win national awards and creating a society accreditation scheme. Relating to making student groups easier was changing processes and support structures, creating guidance and resources. There we no questions.

Jo Gower updated on her work on supporting underrepresented groups regarding getting more diversity in university staff, working with associations, development of training for college identity reps and creating consistent rep descriptions for colleges. Jo explained the #RespectMeans campaign is live now and Active Bystander training has been ran. In regards to disability support, Jo has focussed on medical notes. James Creer asked about Pincident and what the official response would be letting people know where the areas have happened. Darcy Van Erten said that there was wording issues regarding sexual violence posters. Jo explained that the word 'here' had been used because it was a community response and to put the impetus on people within the Durham community.

Adam Jarvis updated on his work regarding the work insights programme, learning and development hub, duck development day, take the lead, active bystander and a positive relationship with the careers service. In regards to supporting common rooms, training has been delivered at one college as other colleges wanted it in Michaelmas term. There we no questions.

Andy thanked the officers for all of their work this year.

Update from Committees

Beth Fleming updated on the work of DUCK stating between £200,000 and £300,000 has been raised this year. There has been a match funding agreement established for the local charities fund. The relationships with the SU have greatly improved.

Matthew Kirk updated on the work of MCR Pres Comm such as making lives easier for PGs and MCR Presidents.

Charlie Walker gave how much money had been awarded in grants throughout the various grants processes and stated there were no appeals from any elections. He also updated that a system to monitor the diversity of candidates in elections is now in place.

New Society Ratification

Thea Burton explained that societies committee has recommended to ratify the following societies:

- HeForShe
- Impulse
- DU Blood Society
- Days for Girls
- Independent Magazine Society
- Home Brewing Society
- Durham Film Review
- Dodgeball Society
- Glitter Society
- Quaker Society
- Turkish Society
- Vinyl Record Society
- Game of Thrones Society
- Applied Social Science Society
- Think Tank

Thea stated that Societies Committee were recommending to reject European Law Students Association. George Walker asked about why HeForShe were now being ratified to be recommended, Thea stated that Fem Soc no longer object. Jo Gower asked about whether Days for Girls could lobby the umbrella organisation to be more inclusive to people who menstruate.

Andy Corkhill asked Assembly to vote to support Societies Committee recommendation to ratify the proposed societies:

For – 21
Against – 0
Abstain – 0

The above societies were ratified as official societies of Durham Students' Union.

Thea Burton explained that European Law Students Association was being rejected because of similarities with Enhanced Legal Sector Access. The President of the European Law Students Association said that the name was an international name and that the objectives were different.

The President of the Enhanced Legal Sector Access stated that they support the objectives of the proposed society but it will be confusing to have two legal societies called ELSA. She stated that they are willing to support the new group's objectives in their activities. Ed Nathan said that it would be confusing as they are very similar and have the same acronym.

Andy Corkhill asked Assembly to approve Societies Committee's recommendation to reject ratification:

For - 12
Against - 3
Abstain - 5

The European Law Students Association was rejected and therefore did not become a society of Durham Students' Union.

Changes to Standing Orders

Andy Corkhill explained the process by which the recommended changes would be presented and voted on.

Lisa Whiting explained the standing order changes that consisted of cleaning up and taking account for changes ie: officer roles.

Andy asked if there were any questions, or objections. There were none.
Andy called for a vote on general changes:

For - 21
Against - 0
Abstain – 0

Those changes passed.

Lisa explained the changes around academic representation and outlined the amendment which had been submitted.

Assembly voted on the amendment:

For - 21
Against - 0
Abstain – 0

The amendment passed.

Assembly voted on the motion as amended:

For - 21
Against – 0
Abstain – 0

The changes to the Standing Order regarding Academic Representation were approved.

Kara explained the proposed standing order changes regarding student groups. Molly Smith asked whether Societies Committee would be the body who ratify student groups, Kara said it would be Soc Comm. George Walker asked whether there would be an ability to refer a society to Assembly – Kara said that is something to look at in the process. Ted Lavis Coward said previously Assembly has had to vote against Soc Comm's recommendations.

Andy Corkhill asked if anybody wanted to oppose the amendment and no one came forward. Andy called for a vote on the amendment:

For - 18
Against - 1
Abstain – 1

Courtney Cliffe asked whether Associations are invited to sit on Societies Committee. Kara said no and Courtney officially opposed the motion by saying that Associations have levels of expertise which may be missed if the decision is made by Societies Committee alone. Alice said that the main rationale for this change was that Assembly has spent a lot of time talking about small process issues, as Societies Committee can pass policy they should be allowed to ratify societies. Ted suggested in future proposing an amendment to add Association representation to Societies Committee and pass.

Andy called for a vote on the changes regarding student groups as amended:

For - 20
Against - 0
Abstain – 1

The motion passed and the standing orders were amended.

Student Group Regulations

Kara explained that the student group agreement would replace the student group regulations. There were no questions.

For – 20
Against – 0
Abstain – 1

The Student Group Agreement was approved and replaces the Student Group Regulations.

Motion: Mitie PLC Resolution

Pippa Cameron presented her motion. George Cowley asked about how realistic the Union were going to be able to change this. Pippa said that the campaigns group had been in touch with the Vice Chancellor and as this is the time for renewal it could be possible. Ted Lavis Coward said that it was positive to have the motion, regardless of outcome of the campaign. No members of Assembly wished to speak against the motion.

Andy called for a vote to adopt the motion.

For – 20
Against - 0
Abstain - 0

The motion passed.

Policy: Postgraduate Paying Conditions

Lisa presented her motion. There were no questions.

For – 20
Against – 0
Abstain - 0

Policy: A Students' Union that Cares

J Smith outlined their motion. George Cowley said that the content is very inaccessible because of the length of the motion. J explained that it was so long because of how much needed to be done. Jo Gower thanked J for taking on so much work for carers for the year. There was no opposition to the motion.

Andy called for a vote to adopt the motion.

For – 20
Against – 0
Abstain – 0

The motion passed.

Policy: 'Transforming' Durham Students' Union

Luke Armitage outlined their motion. Ed Nathan asked if the President of Trans Comm would sit on Assembly as opposed to just the President of LGBT+ Association. Luke said this is to ensure that trans students have representation if the President is cisgendered. Molly explained that NUS also have an autonomous trans campaign. Ted explained that while lots of work had been done for trans issues this year and should not lose momentum.

There was no opposition so Andy called for a vote to adopt the motion:

For - 20
Against - 0
Abstain – 0

The policy passed.

Policy: Employability & Skills

Adam Jarvis outlined his policy. Adam asked for email feedback on the motion.

SU Strategy

There was no update.

Questions to Officers/NUS Delegate.

George Walker asked Alice, Kate and Ted would be willing to say who they voted for the national full time officer positions

Alice voted for Shakira, Robbie, Amatey, Izzy and Matt. Kate voted for Shakira, Robbie, Amatey, Izzy and Matt. Ted voted for Malia, Danny, Ana, Jenny and Ali.

James Creer asked whether it is possible to get Tom Harwood's voting record.

George asked said why he voted for Ali Milani when his manifesto wanted to tackle anti-Semitic who tweeted some comments in 2013. Ted stated that as LGBT+ President they had to vote for Ali because of comments by Matt Grange.

Charlie Walker asked how the delegates voted in the democratic reforms. Alice voted for them. Kate voted for too. Ted said that they voted against it because the amendment to keep the VP Welfare Officer was voted down.

J asked Jo about the structure of WED Comm whether there would be a review of the structure. Jo said that looking at other universities is problematic because of the structure. Jo said that she wanted to set up and MCR WED Comm but did not get any engagement.

Any Other Business

Andy Corkhill thanked Assembly members. Alice Dee thanked Andy for being Chair.

#	Andy Corkhill	Chair	
1	Alice Dee	President	
2	Kara-Jane Senior	Activities	
3	Lisa Whiting	Academic Affairs	
4	Adam Jarvis	Development	
5	Jo Gower	Community	
6	Trisvette Loh for Adeline Chow	ISA	
7	Ted Coward	LGBT+a	
8	Courtney Cliffe	SwDA	
9	James Colville	Mature Students Association	
10	Iris Lang	People of Colour Association	
11	Anna Greenall	Academic Affairs Committee	
12	Thea Burton	Societies Committee	
13	Megan Croll	JCR PresComm	
14	Bethany Fleming	DUCK Exec	
15	Matthew Kirk	MCR PresComm	
16	Charlie Walker	Governance and Grants	
17	Dewi Erwan Humphries	Environmental & Citizenship	
18	Molly Smith (sub)	WEDComm	
19	Craig Bateman	Media Rep	
20	Mitchell Langcaster-James	St. Cuthberts	
21	Alex Hampton	Ustinov	
22	George Cowley	St John's	
23	George Walker	Van Mildert	
24	Tom Harwood	St Mary's	
25	George Peat	St. Chad's	
26	George Stanbury	Grey	
27	Meghan Hosch	Hatfield	
28	Jazz Beard	John Snow	
29	Clara Gallay	St Aidan's	
30	Gabriella Linning (sub)	Collingwood	
31	Tom Henderson	St Hild & St Bede	
32	Laura Doherty	University College	
33	James Creer	Stephenson	
34	Darcy Van Eerten	Trevelyan	
35	Rachel Meyer	Josephine Butler	
36	Harry Cross	Open Position	
37	Johan Seidenfaden	Open Position	
38	Dominic Birch	Open Position	
39	VACANT	Open Position (freshers)	
40	Dominic Robson	UG Academic Rep	
41	Hannah Britt	PGR Academic Rep	
42	VACANT	PGT Academic Rep	