

Assembly minutes – 8 February 2018

Matt Gibson welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Rosa Tallack took a moment at the start of the meeting to share Durham's collective sympathy for the tragic loss of a fellow student that week.

Apologies

As noted on the membership list

Minutes

Approved

Officer updates

President

Megan Croll updated on her work

On differential pricing, she noted that a survey showed that differentiation on size and condition was difficult to justify. MC and student reps now in discussion as to the best way to proceed.

MC was clear that this should not price out accessible rooms as she would want these to be affordable to students that needed them. This will be considered at the next meeting of Scholarships, Fees and Awards Advisory Group.

Opportunities Officer

Charlie Walker gave his update.

Welfare and Liberation Officer

Rosa Tallack gave her update

She committed to bringing the rent guarantor programme together as soon as possible.

Undergraduate Academic Officer

Laura Tidd submitted apologies.

Postgraduate Academic Officer

Sabrina Seel submitted apologies.

The Chair introduced the NUS Policy debates, and clarified that this would not be Durham SU policy, per se, but would be policies submitted to NUS National Conference for their consideration.

Motion 1 on Mental Health

Darcy Van Eerten spoke to her motion.

There was no speech against

Motion carried unanimously

Motion 2 on Tenants' Unions

George Walker spoke to his motion.

A member asked on point 20, what is it now?

- GW was not sure on current figure, but was confident that it was zero at Durham.

There was no speech against

Motion carried.

Motion 3 on low-income students

Dominic Wood spoke to his motion.

A member asked what graduate contribution would mean in context of students who pay off their loan?

- DW referenced the work by Martin Lewis, off of Money Saving Expert.

George Stanbury spoke against the motion.

Tom Henderson spoke against the motion.

GW spoke against the motion.

DW urged Assembly to remember that the fact they thought it wouldn't chime with NUS wasn't a reason to not get it to NUS National Conference in order to debate the issue.

Ed Nathan spoke about how a change in the name wouldn't change the reality of an issue and urged Assembly to vote against the motion.

GS summed up case against.

DW summed up motion.

Motion falls.

Motion 4 on Non-Binary Inclusivity

Alexandra Thomas spoke to their motion.

GS and MC asked for clarity on numbers.

LA spoke about the possibilities of the formula.

Motion carried.

Motion on Union Reps Committee

GW spoke to his motion.

GW summated.

Motion carried.

Questions to Officers

GW asked the President for an update on UCU strike action.

- MC spoke about her meetings with UCU, the University, and student activists on this matter. More information would be in the public domain very soon.

Harry Cross asked the President for her support for postgrads taking part in strike action.

- MC was happy to support.

Rosa Tallack was asked to clarify whether College Minority Reps were 'property' of Associations or the Common Rooms.

- RT regretted that there was no consistent answer, but committed to support student activists wherever they were.

The President was asked why the Assembly motions deadline and the NUS motion deadline were so close together.

- MC replied that this was an accident of calendars, which are set by separate organisations at the start of the year.

A student asked why Durham SU's position on the NSS was not debated.

- MC replied that this was the prerogative of Assembly members, but none had done so.