

# DURHAM SU ASSEMBLY

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING 09 December 2021

Virtual Meeting, Zoom

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

ST opened the meeting, welcoming members and attendees, explaining zoom etiquette, outlining that no offensive or unacceptable behaviour would be accepted and would result in being removed from the meeting.

The Chief Executive provided a statement regarding the recent incident at a South College formal dinner.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS ON 25 NOVEMBER 2021

There were no amendments to minutes of the last meetings.  
Minutes from the last meetings were approved.

### 3. DEMOCRACY REVIEW UPDATE

The Chief Executive provided an update on the Democracy Review and said this had been a multi-year research project which was designed to understand what students thought about democratic engagement and how they should exercise their powers. Three separate motions were brought to Assembly as a result of the project to allow changes to be voted on in parts rather than a lot of changes in one go. Two of the motions were approved by Assembly and a separate meeting was requested to discuss the third around Assembly membership, the meeting however was not quorate so the approval of the third motion needed to be ratified at the last meeting.

There is still currently work going on about the membership of Assembly with student leaders and once this work is concluded a new proposal will be brought to Assembly. The next stage is to update the current standing orders to reflect the changes agreed by Assembly, which will be out to Assembly and the Board of Trustees for ratification.

### *Routine business items*

### 4. BOARD REPORT

The Board of Trustees met on 30 November 2021. The Durham SU auditors made their report, and confirmed the financial integrity and sustainability of the students' union. The trustees also considered a first draft of their annual report. The Chief Executive's Report, which gave some wider context to the recent press reports about Durham University's support of student sex workers, and both the unfortunate and the malicious misrepresentations of Durham SU's student support work.

There were no questions from Assembly members.

### 5. OFFICER UPDATES

Updates were provided from the SU Officer Team on their priorities for the year. Updates were provided by:

Seun Twins, SU President  
Charlie Procter, Undergraduate Academic Officer (provided by Delcan Merrington)  
Declan Merrington, Postgraduate Academic Officer  
Jack Ballingham, Opportunities Officer  
Jonah Graham, Welfare and Liberation Officer

## 6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

SU Rep Committee  
DUCK  
Student Groups Committee  
Governance and Grants Committee

(Apologies from JCR PresComm, MCR PresComm and Academic Affairs Committee)

## 7. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

International Students' Association  
Women's Association  
LGBT+ Association  
Durham People of Colour Association (DPoCA)

(Apologies from Trans Association, Students with Disabilities Association (SwDA), Mature Students' Association (MATSA) and Working Class Students' Association)

**\*\*ACCESS BREAK\*\***

## 8. CHAIRS ELECTION

ST announced the results of the Chair election.

Natasja Enthoven was announced as chair of Assembly and will take over at the next meeting.

## 9. OPEN PLACES ELECTION

ST announced the results of the Undergraduate Open Place election.

Liam Robson was announced as the Undergraduate Open Place representative.

*Items for ratification:*

## 10. REVIEW AND RATIFICATION OF EXPIRED POLICY

Governance and Grants Committee carried out a review of previously approved policies which are now expired or were due to expired, and recommended policies for re-ratification by Assembly.

Assembly re-ratified the below policies:

Policy	
<a href="#">UCU Anti-Casualisation</a>	Ratified

<a href="#">International Tuition Fees</a>	Ratified
<a href="#">Mo Mowlam</a>	Ratified
<a href="#">Support for Direct Action Against Rising Accommodation Fees</a>	Ratified
<a href="#">Durham University is Institutionally Disablist</a>	Ratified
<a href="#">Fight the Housing Rush</a>	Ratified
<a href="#">Support Access to Free, Safe and Legal Abortions</a>	Ratified
<a href="#">Lobby Landlords to Accept International Guarantors</a>	Ratified
<a href="#">Declaration of Climate Emergency</a>	Ratified

## 11. AOB

Jon Chan said that a number of students had noted that there was a lack of microwaves and hot water facilities in academic buildings and asked if this was something that could be looked at by the SU.

ST confirmed that the officers would look into this and flag with the University.

Alfie Whillis noted that JCR Precomm did not agree with the reasoning of Governance and Grants Committee as to why the JCR training policy has been allowed to lapse and the committee will consider resubmitting a new policy.