

DURHAM SU ASSEMBLY

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING 8 December 2022

Fonteyn Ballroom, Dunelm House

1. OPENING OF MEETING

AK 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.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS ON 3 NOVEMBER 2022 AND MATTERS ARISING

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

JC noted his objection to the voting records of Assembly members not being included in the minutes.

3. RATIFICATION OF STUDENT GROUPS

NOTED: the new ratified student groups from Student Group Committee.

Routine business items

4. BOARD REPORT

NOTED: an update report from the Board of Trustees and **RATIFIED** Peter Robertson as Returning Officer.

5. RETURNING OFFICER ELECTION REPORTS

NOTED: the returning officer's reports from NUS delegate and Assembly membership elections.

6. ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

NOTED: an update on electing members to the committees of Assembly.

Gareth Hughes provided an update on elections for Assembly committees and said that no nominations had been received so far for either committee and explained that the committees were a new part of the standing orders voted for by Assembly members and encouraged members to nominate themselves.

7. OFFICER UPDATES

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

Joe McGarry, SU President
Josh Freestone, Undergraduate Academic Officer
Laura Curran, Welfare and Liberation Officer
Jack Ballingham, Opportunities Officer

8. COMMITTEE UPDATES

NOTED: updates from Committees:

Student Groups Committee

JCR PresComm
Academic Affairs Committee (written report)
MCR PresComm
SU Rep Committee

Apologies: DUCK

Assembly Procedures Committee and Officer Scrutiny Committee members have not yet been elected, so no update was provided.

9. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

NOTED: updates from Associations:

Students with Disabilities Association (SwDA)
International, Students' Association

Apologies: LGBT+ Association, Durham People of Colour Association (DPoCA), Women's Association, Trans Association, Working Class Students' Association, Mature Students' Association (MATSA)

****ACCESS BREAK****

Items for discussion:

10. DURHAM SU POSITION ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

PASSED: a motion on Durham SU's position on nuclear weapons.

JB presented the motion and said that he is the Chair of Durham University Nuclear Disarmament. Durham University should not have continued to have a partnership, research, and careers advertising arrangements with, including receiving funding from, the Atomic Weapons Establishment and nuclear submarine and weapons manufacturing and maintenance companies.

TM spoke against the motion and said that after speaking to the engineering society and discussing job opportunities relating to the industry, which can include companies that use aerodynamics, this will mean fewer opportunities for students in this area and less chance to gain experience in the field. There are already not a lot of science students choosing not to stay within the field, so this would mean a further reduction and fewer companies coming to Durham to hold events to draw in graduates.

AK moves to a vote.

The motion passes.

11. DURHAM SU CODE OF CONDUCT

APPROVED: the proposed Code of Conduct for Durham Students' Union members.

JB introduced the Code and explained why this was being developed, what this would mean for SU members, and how the process would work.

There were no speeches for the motion.

There were no speeches against the motion

SS said that the policy could be more inclusive, and it would be good if this could be looked at and amended further down the line.

AK moves to a vote.

The motion passes.

12. PALATINATE UPDATE

NOTED: an update on recent developments with Palatinate.

JB presented an update for Assembly members on the current situation with Palatinate and the timeline of what has been happening up until this point, details of the independence proposal, and the next steps for moving forward.

Nicole Wu from Palatinate also spoke as part of the update.

There was no other business.

Voting Record of Assembly Members

	Nuclear Weapons Position	Code of Conduct
MCR Prescomm Chair	Against	For
UG Academic Officer	For	For
President	Abstain	For
Students with Disabilities Association	Against	For
International Student's Association	Abstain	For
Open Place Rep	For	For
JCR Prescomm	For	For
Stephenson College Rep	Against	For
University College Rep	For	For
St Mary's College Rep	For	For
Open Place Rep	For	For
Open Place Rep	Abstain	For
Hatfield College Rep	Against	For
Student Group Committee Chair	Against	For
Hild and Bede College Rep	For	For
UG Science Rep	Against	For
John Snow College Rep	For	For
Opportunities Officer	For	For
St John's College Rep	Against	For
St Cuthbert's Society Rep	For	For
UG Arts and Humanities Rep	For	For
Welfare and Liberation Officer	For	For