

DURHAM SU ASSEMBLY

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING 9 February 2023

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 8 DECEMBER 2022 AND MATTERS ARISING

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

Routine business items

3. ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES COMMITTEE ELECTION

Assembly voted to elect the following members to Assembly Procedures Committee:

Jon Chan
Theo Stubbs
Toby Saunders

4. TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT

RATIFIED: the appointment of Rachel Taylor as lay trustee to the Durham SU Board of Trustees.

5. 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

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

NOTED: updates from Committees:

JCR PresComm
Academic Affairs Committee
SU Rep Committee

Apologies: DUCK, Student Groups Committee, MCR PresComm

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

7. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

NOTED: updates from Associations:

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), Students with Disabilities Association (SwDA)

****ACCESS BREAK****

Items for discussion:

8. NUS ANTISEMITISM UPDATE REPORT

RECEIVED: an update on the NUS antisemitism report and what it means for Durham SU.

Joe McGarry presented the report and said the report from NUS highlights a lot of failures and said it was important to keep talking to JSoc and Jewish students in Durham if any incidents occur at Durham SU or across the University campus.

9. NUS POLICY 2023: HOUSING

APPROVED: the NUS Policy submission for 2023 National Conference.

Frankie Tress-Wheatley presented the policy and said student housing had been chosen as the topic for this year's conference, as this is a focal problem right now, especially in the current cost of living crisis. Housing in Durham is very poor and very expensive. The University, landlords and letting agents need to take responsibility and be held accountable. There is a huge gap in costs and this needs to be addressed. The average is £7k per year across the UK for student rent. The policy is set out in 5 areas of focus and will be submitted to NUS once approved.

Jasmine Uppal proposed amendments to be made to the policy and said the wording of certain paragraphs is the issue rather than the content of the policy and seems like it is aimed at certain groups, this is maybe not the intention but that's how it reads, the wording needs to be amended to clarify what is meant.

There were no speeches against the amendments.

AK moves to a vote on amendments.

THE AMENDMENTS PASSED.

AK moves back to debate the policy.

There were no speeches against the policy.

THE POLICY PASSED.

10. DURHAM UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION FEES DISCUSSION

DISCUSSED: how college accommodation be made cheaper and if there are aspects of college provision that could or should be cut to reduce the cost to students and resolve to set up a task and finish group.

Joe McGarry presented the discussion topic and then members split into small discussion groups to talk on the topic and feedback to Assembly.

Joe McGarry formally proposed the task and finish group and said that this still needs a lot of work, but this discussion is a good start, but more students will need to be spoken to, to get a broader range of responses. It would be good to have a rep from working class students, common room president and SU rep and then anyone else who would be interested in being part of the group.

There were no speeches opposing the group.

AK moves to vote.

Assembly resolved to set up the task and finish group.

Joe McGarry said if anyone was interested in joining, please speak to the JMc after the meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RECEIVED: any other business not noted on the agenda.

Jack Ballingham noted that the Durham University Nuclear Weapons task and finish group was now set up and if anyone was interested in being a member, please get in touch with JB via email.

The Chair noted that the Officer Elections Q and A was taking place on 15 March, at 6:30, if anyone would like to attend.

Voting Record of Assembly Members

	NUS Policy	Task and Finish Group
UG Academic Officer	For	For
President	For	For
International Student's Association	For	For
Open Place Rep	For	For
JCR Prescomm	For	For
Stephenson College Rep	For	For
University College Rep	For	For
Open Place Rep	For	For
Hild and Bede College Rep	For	For
John Snow College Rep	For	For
Opportunities Officer	For	For
St John's College Rep	For	For
St Cuthbert's Society Rep	For	For
UG Arts and Humanities Rep	For	For
Welfare and Liberation Officer	For	For
Trevelyan College Rep	For	For
Academic Affairs Committee	For	For

The meeting was not quorate, all decisions were ratified by Assembly members via electronic vote after the meeting.