

**Durham Students' Union  
Assembly Agenda**

Tuesday, 6 December 2016– 19:00, CG93

<b>Time</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Paper</b>
19:00-19:01	A. Welcome	Chair	
19:01-19:03	B. Apologies for absence and Conflicts of interest	Chair	
19:03-19:05	C. Minutes of the meeting on 27 October 23 November 2016	Chair	UA/1617/010 UA/1617/015

**Routine Business**

19:05-19:35	D. NUS Delegates Q & A	Delegate Candidates	
19:35-19:45	E. Annual Policy Review	Chair, Governance & Grants	UA/1617/017
19:45-20:00	F. Update on Officer Work	Student Officers	UA/1617/018

**Items for Discussion**

20:00-20:10	G. New Societies Ratification	Chair, Societies Committee	UA/1617/019
20:10-20:20	H. Ratification of Grants	Chair, Governance & Grants	UA/1617/020
20:20-20:50	I. Proposed Officer Restructure	President	UA/1617/021
20:50-20:55	J. Nightline Update	Community Officer	UA/1617/022

**Any Other Business**

20:55-21:10	K. Questions to Officers		
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**For Your Information**

L. Sharing of Committee Plans		UA/1617/023
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Next meeting will be 7 February 2017, Fonteyn Ballroom  
Agenda closes (so papers must be in) 27 January at 17:00.

*Assembly is committed to making its meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. If you consider yourself to have any access or reasonable adjustment needs, please contact the Union President at [dsu.president@durham.ac.uk](mailto:dsu.president@durham.ac.uk) at least 2 days in advance to make arrangements.*

**Durham Students' Union  
Assembly Minutes**

**Date:** 27 October 2016

**Time:** 19:00

**Location:** ER201, Elvet Riverside

**Attendance**

Members present            22

Members absent           4

Members who sent apologies    2

Members not yet elected    13

**Chair:** Alice Dee/Andy Corkhill

**The following staff members were in attendance:**

Gary Hughes (Chief Executive), Kirsten Lightfoot (Director of Learning), Christine Stretesky (Director of Governance & Compliance), Georgi Lambert (Marketing Manager), Mike Potter (Engagement Facilitator), Jon Dougherty (L&D Facilitator), Laura Wilkinson (Executive Assistant)

**Welcome**

The President of the Students' Union (AD) welcomed members of Assembly and advised that she would be chairing the meeting until a new Chair was elected.

**Apologies**

AD listed the apologies that had been received prior to the meeting (see table following the minutes).

**Conflict of Interest**

AD asked for notification of conflict of interest before the meeting began; none were received.

**Notification of AOB**

AD asked for notification of any other business before the meeting began; none was received.

**Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising from the minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to an amendment to the attendance of Kieran Laurie. AD explained that due to the meeting on 16 June not being quorate, Assembly would need to vote to ratify the new societies and policies presented at the meeting.

**Ratify Women in Science, Technology & Engineering**

**Ratify 'Water of Life' Society**

**Ratify Tea Society**

**Ratify Israel Forum**

**Ratify Arab Society**

**Ratify North Korea (on conditions)**

**Reject ratification of Sewing and Needlecraft**

**Reject ratification of Novea Terra**

**Reject ratification of Students for Britain**

**Adoption of Sexual Violence Policy**

**Adoption of Equality and Diversity Policy**

For: 18

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

The Assembly voted for the ratification of approving the above listed societies.

### **Election of Chair**

There were three candidates for Chair; each of them had 60 seconds to hust.

James Cochran: 5

Andy Corkhill: 9

Laura Tidd: 7

**Andy Corkhill** was elected as the new Chair of Assembly.

### **Election of Vice Chair**

There was one candidate for Vice Chair of Assembly.

Chris Waters: 19

RON: 1

Chris Waters was elected as Vice Chair.

### **Confirmation of Appointment of PG Rep to Senate**

The Academic Affairs Officer asked Assembly to confirm the appointment of Hannah Britt as the Post Graduate Representative for Senate, and advised that there is currently a review of student representatives on Senate so it could change in the future.

For: 20

Against: 1

Hannah Britt was appointed as PG rep for Senate.

### **Officer Objectives**

The President presented Assembly members on her objectives for the year. A member of Assembly asked what would be done to stop the University breaking the agreement of student consultation as they had done regarding tuition fees. AD advised that she would be working on a framework with a 4 tier system of consultation which would hopefully hold them to account more.

The Academic Affairs Officer presented Assembly her objectives for the year and was asked to elaborate what she meant by 'fixing' the course rep system. She explained that she aims to provide more resources for course reps and build a relationship with them so they feel more supported.

The Development Officer presented his objectives to Assembly and was asked if he intended on working with the college careers service such as SHAPE at Hatfield. He responded that he was unaware some colleges had a career service but that he would definitely contact them to see if they could work together.

The Activities Officer presented her objectives to Assembly, and was asked how she intended to get students to participate in research. She advised that a survey would be the main thing, perhaps offering an incentive to take part, and that she would also be talking to students on campus and setting up focus groups.

The Community Officer presented her objectives for the year to Assembly, and was asked if she intending on getting college reps (e.g LGBT) involved when working on the representation of minorities. She advised that she would definitely be contacted college reps and will speak to them about how to best disseminate information.

### **New Society Ratification**

The Activities Officer presented the below societies and stated that it is recommended that they be ratified:

### **Bureaucracy**

**Durham for Refugees**  
**Chemistry**  
**Russian Speaking**  
**Mock Trial**  
**Korea**  
**Guitar Hero and Rock Band**  
**Krav Maga**  
**Afro-Caribbean**  
**Vietnamese**  
**Taiwan**  
**Hellenic**  
**Cypriot**  
**Lego**  
**Scandinavian**  
**Nichiren Buddhism**  
**Werewolf**  
**Durham Students for Ashinaga**  
**Chinese Students and Scholars Association**

For: 20  
Against: 1  
Abstain: 2

The Assembly voted **for** the ratification of approving the above listed societies.

The Activities Officer recommended that **The Tangent** be rejected due to similar aims and objectives to an existing society.

For: 10  
Against: 7  
Abstain: 4

The Assembly voted **for** the rejection of ratification of the Tangent.

Two of the new societies were requesting exemption from having to charge a membership fee. A member of each society spoke to explain their reasoning for the exemption. Assembly voted separately on each society.

**Durham Students for Ashinaga**

For: 19  
Against: 2  
Abstain: 2

The Assembly voted **for** the exemption of membership fees for the above listed societies.

**Chinese Students and Scholars Association**

For: 10  
Against: 6  
Abstain: 7

The Assembly voted **for** the exemption of membership fees for the above listed societies.

Stella Alexandrova commented that due to this also being brought to Assembly by a society last year, should we not look at making it possible for societies not have a membership fee. The Activities Officer informed her that this is already being looked into.

#### **Ratification of the People of Colour Society**

The Community Officer introduced the President of the People of Colour Association to Assembly, who was asked a question regarding the name of the society and whether it was stigmatising. The Community Officer explained that it was felt to be the correct term and more appropriate than BME.

For: 22

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

Assembly voted **for** the ratification of The People of Colour Association.

#### **Letter of Concern Regarding the Champagne Society**

The President of the Champagne Society, Sam, advised that he would take the paper as read and welcomed members of Assembly to ask question. James Creer asked the question: if magnums were delivered by mistake instead of normal sized bottles, why wasn't the amount of bottles put out on tables amended accordingly. The President responded stating that there was in fact only one magnum per table, and two glasses per person at the reception. Therefore the problem was not the alcohol that had been provided, but the drinks vouchers each student had purchased themselves. The staff at the venue had been informed not to serve anyone who seemed too intoxicated, but they obviously did not put this in practice. AD stated that the Union are taking the issue very seriously, and that the Officers feel that Education and Probation would be the best idea for the Society, so it gives a period of time to work on the issues. AD stated that she was not willing to let all of the hard work on the alcohol policy be undone which is why there needs to be a strict time period. AD also advised that the Board of Trustees had made a decision that no student groups would use Hardwick Hall again. A member of Assembly asked the President of the Champagne Society how he could be sure it would not happen again, he advised that the new exec team would be appointed sooner, letting them shadow the Winter Ball with the view to take charge of the Summer Ball so the current exec team could observe. He also agreed that the event should be capped at a smaller number of guests than previous years.

Assembly members were asked to vote on the Champagne Society being given Education and Probation.

For: 19

Against: 3

Abstain: 0

The Champagne Society will be under Education and Probation until Epiphany term.

#### **Request from Hong Kong Society to de-ratify DUHKPASS**

Members of each Society answered questions from Assembly members. The Chair asked members to vote for or against the de-ratification of DUHKPASS.

For: 3

Against: 11

Abstain: 9

Assembly members voted **against** de-ratifying and therefore DUHKPASS will remain a society.

### **Election of Assembly/Committee Members**

Those candidates who were present at the meeting answered questions from Assembly members, the candidates in attendance were:

Governance & Grants Committee: Maciej Matuszewski, Meghan Hosch, Andrew Hetherington  
Environmental & Citizenship Committee: Katherine Condon  
Welfare, Equality & Diversity Committee: Rosa Tallack  
Open Places of Assembly: Harry Cross, Johan Seidenfaden

Assembly members voted, votes would be counted after the meeting and successful candidates contacted via email.

### **Questions to Officers**

**To Jo Gower, from James Creer:**

**What progress has been made in the organisation of Accommodation info support for students transitioning from Queen's Campus to Durham City in 17/18? Particularly in the areas of info session being organised and transport for students to come to the Accommodation fair.**

JG advised that an email had been sent to all livers out reps with details of what we can offer. The Accommodation fair is going to be held at Queen's Campus, with Durham City landlords attending as well as Stockton landlords.

**To Jo Gower, from Stella Alexandrova:**

**As there is no DSA funding from Student Finance anymore and it now needs to be provided by the University, which has had notorious problems in the past with supporting it's disabled students. Do you know if the demand for support is being met? If it is not being met what is being done to ensure that it will be met, and what is the time frame for that?**

JG stated that the DSA cuts are catastrophic, and that she has spoken to the University, but needs to go higher up to demand more of a budget. She advised that she would be looking into what people have had in the past and what people are getting now to gather evidence.

**What are the outcomes from the meeting with the local MP about the HMO licensing?**

JG advised that it was not discussed as the MP was attending a mini HE conference rather than attending a meeting, but has invited her to a Durham University Residents Forum to get their voice out there.

**Since the SU does not have a specific BAME Officer, like most Universities do, what will come into place with POCA or are there any future plans for it?**

JG advised that the President of the People of Colour Association will act as an Officer and have a place on Assembly like the Presidents of the other 4 Associations.

**To Alice Dee, from Stella Alexandrova:**

**Why is the Students' Union collaborating with a tax avoiding company such as Starbucks?**

AD advised that the decision to open a Starbucks in the building was one made by the Board of Trustees after a lot of discussion and consideration. NUS's ethical suppliers system are working very closely with Starbucks. They have upped their game, and donated millions since

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 21:30, and announced that the next meeting will be on 6 December 2016 in CG93, Scarborough lecture theatre.

#		Chair	
1	Alice Dee	President	
2	Kara-Jane Senior	Activities	
3	Lisa Whiting	Academic Affairs	
4	Adam Jarvis	Development	
5	Jo Gower	Community	
6	Adeline Chow	ISA	
7	Ted Coward	LGBT+a	
8	Courtney Cliffe	SwDA	
9	James Colville	Mature Students Association	
10	VACANT	Academic Affairs Committee	
11	VACANT	Societies Committee	
12	Megan Croll	JCR PresComm	
13	Bethany Fleming	DUCK Exec	
14	David Evans	MCR PresComm	
15	VACANT	Governance & Grants	
16	VACANT	Environmental & Citizenship	
17	VACANT	WED Comm	
18	VACANT	Media Rep	
19	Mitchell Langcaster-James	St. Cuthberts	
20		Ustinov	
21	Will Waters	St John's	
22	George Walker	Van Mildert	
23	Tom Harwood	St Mary's	
24	Harriet Barsham	St. Chad's	
25	Nicola Tweedy	Grey	
26	Meghan Hosch	Hatfield	
27	Kennedy Round	John Snow	
28	Luke Hollander	St Aidan's	
29	Chris Waters	Collingwood	
30	Kieran Laurie	St Hild & St Bede	
31	Laura Doherty	University College	
32	James Creer	Stephenson	
33	Stella Elena Alexandrova	Trevelyan	
34	Rachel Meyer	Josephine Butler	
35	VACANT	Open Position	
36	VACANT	Open Position	
37	VACANT	Open Position	
38	VACANT	Open Position	
39	VACANT	UG Academic Rep	
40	VACANT	PGR Academic Rep	
41	VACANT	PGT Academic Rep	
Attended		Sent Apologies	No Attendance or Apologies
		Not in post	

## Durham Students' Union Assembly Minutes

**Date:** 23 November 2016

**Time:** 19:00

**Location:** CG93

### Attendance

Members present	28	Members absent	8
Members who sent apologies	2	Members not yet elected	4

**Chair:** Andy Corkhill

### The following staff members were in attendance:

Christine Stretesky (Director of Governance & Compliance), Nick Glover (Policy Manager), Georgi Lambert (Marketing Manager), Mike Potter (Engagement Facilitator), Laura Wilkinson (Executive Assistant)

### Welcome

The Chair welcomed members of assembly and announced that the motion to call for a referendum had been withdrawn and therefore had been removed from the agenda.

### Apologies

The Chair listed the apologies that had been received prior to the meeting (see table following the minutes).

### Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked for notification of conflict of interest before the meeting began; none were received.

### Vote on NUS National Ballot

The Academic Affairs Officer (LW) introduced the topic explaining that at NUS national conference a motion was passed to boycott the National Student Survey (NSS). Some people felt that the decision was not considered enough and are asking that NUS conduct a risk assessment and equality impact assessment. She asked assembly members to consider and debate the Union's position on the National Ballot question "Should NUS conduct and publish a risk assessment and equality impact assessment before finalising the NSS boycott/sabotage action?"

A member of Assembly asked if there was a timescale for making this decision and LW advised that the deadline for voting was 08 December 2016. The President (AD) informed members that NUS have things in place to be able to conduct the risk assessment quickly if that should be the result of the vote.

The Chair asked if any members of Assembly would like give an opposing speech. Harry Cross stated that the motion is making very specific demands for risk assessment and equality impact assessment which would cost a lot of money and waste a lot of time and undermine the democratic mandate set by national conference. Harry Cross also stated that he believe the National Ballot had been triggered by some Union's who did not agree with the fundamental principles of the NSS boycott and that the risk assessment would only waste resources from NUS which Durham's affiliation costs pay for and it could be used on better things.

The President spoke in favour explaining that the policy was large and very confusing at conference and part of a much bigger motion which had frustrated some delegates from other Union's. The President stated that the entire officer team had supported calls for the National Ballot and explained that Durham is in quite a safe position in that the block grant and league table position wouldn't be affected by it their NSS score, but it would affect other students' unions a lot and we should not stand in their way. She advised that she felt the risk assessment and equality impact assessment wouldn't do any harm and it would give people more information.



The Chair asked members to vote on the question.

For: 24

Against: 1

Abstain: 1

Assembly members voted in favour of NUS of the Union supporting the request that NUS conduct and publish a risk assessment and equality impact assessment.

**Motion: Higher Education Reforms Policy**

The Academic Affairs Officer presented the motion, explaining that she had tried to create it so it was specific to Durham. She stated that she felt the policy would make a positive impact. Harry Cross asked for some amendments to be made in point 3, these were accepted.

Chris Waters asked LW what forums this would be taken to at the University and LW advised that TEF was on next week's Senate agenda so if the policy passed today she would take it there. She also stated that would focus on working with the PVC of Education and Academic Registrar.

Stella Alexandrova stated that the University are likely to be as difficult with tuition fees as they were with rising accommodation fees, and asked how LW would be able to prevent the University increasing tuition fees by inflation as the rise in accommodation fees shows that the if the University have the option to charge more that they will.

LW explained that AD is currently looking at getting a consultation framework in place to ensure that the University don't just inform us of decisions last minute when it is too late to do anything about it.

AD explained that the Union and the University now had a standardised approach for deciding accommodation fees and this would have to be tailored for tuition fees. As tuition fees are a national issue, AD re-affirmed the need to work with NUS and for the student officers to focus on widening participation activities on campus e.g. access agreements.

A member of assembly mentioned that the policy states 'SU Officers will be involved...' and asked what exactly this would entail? LW advised that the Officers would be working in partnership with the University regarding where the money goes, whereas in the past this has not happened. She advised that she would like to see student representatives directing the work.

The Chair asked members to vote on the motion.

For: 25

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

The motion was passed by Assembly members.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 19:30 and announced that the next meeting would be on 6 December 2016, 19:00 in room CG93. The agenda closes on 25 November at 17:00.

#	Andy Corkhill	Chair	
1	Alice Dee	President	
2	Kara-Jane Senior	Activities	
3	Lisa Whiting	Academic Affairs	
4	Audrey Allas for Adam Jarvis	Development	
5	Jo Gower	Community	
6	Adeline Chow	ISA	
7	Fred Banks for Ted Coward	LGBT+a	
8	Courtney Cliffe	SwDA	
9	James Colville	Mature Students Association	
10	Anna Greenall	Academic Affairs Committee	
11	VACANT	Societies Committee	
12	Beccy Hodson for Megan Croll	JCR PresComm	
13	Bethany Fleming	DUCK Exec	
14	Abi Steed	MCR PresComm	
15	Charles Walker	Governance and Grants	
16	VACANT	Environmental & Citizenship	
17	Rosa Tallack	WEDComm	
18	Craig Bateman	Media Rep	
19	Mitchell Langcaster-James	St. Cuthberts	
20	Thomas Addinall-Biddulph	Ustinov	
21	Will Waters	St John's	
22	George Walker	Van Mildert	
23	Tom Harwood	St Mary's	
24	Harriet Barsham	St. Chad's	
25	Nicola Tweedy	Grey	
26	Meghan Hosch	Hatfield	
27	Jazz Beard for Kennedy Round	John Snow	
28	Luke Hollander	St Aidan's	
29	Chris Waters	Collingwood	
30	Kieran Laurie	St Hild & St Bede	
31	Pippa Prevost-Jones for Laura Doherty	University College	
32	James Creer	Stephenson	
33	Stella Elena Alexandrova	Trevelyan	
34	Rachel Meyer	Josephine Butler	
35	Harry Cross	Open Position	
36	Johan Seidenfaden	Open Position	
37	Dominic Birch	Open Position	
38	VACANT	Open Position (freshers)	
39	Dominic Robson	UG Academic Rep	
40	Hannah Britt	PGR Academic Rep	
41	VACANT	PGT Academic Rep	
Attended	Sent Apologies	No Attendance or Apologies	Not in post

TO: Assembly  
FROM: Governance and Grants Committee  
RE: Annual Policy Review  
DATE: 28 November 2016

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### Issue

Assembly needs to determine what to do regarding policies that are lapsing due to the Standing Orders. Governance and Grants Committee has reviewed the policies and make recommendations as indicated in the table below. The committee requests that you adopt their recommendations.

### Background

Standing Order B provides that at the second Assembly meeting in the second academic year after a policy's adoption or most recent renewal, Governance and Grants Committee shall present these policies for review. The options available are **renew**, **remove** or **refer**. Governance and Grants Committee has met to consider each of the policies needing review and recommend the following:

Policy	Recommendation
Principles of student engagement	Refer to President
Durham University to stop working with G4S	Refer to Environmental & Citizenship
The Students' Union stance on the marking boycott	Remove
Academic skills	Refer to Academic Affairs Committee
International Attainment gap	Refer to Academic Affairs Committee
Prevent	Refer to Community Officer
Faith space	Renew (with update from Community Officer)
Improve Lower Mountjoy Centre	Refer to Academic Affairs Officer
Amendments to the membership of Community Committee	Remove
Zero Tolerance	Refer to Welfare, Equality and Diversity Committee
Fossil Free	Refer to President

The policies in question are attached hereto.

### Action to be taken/Recommendations

Adopt the recommendations of Governance and Grants Committee.

## **Principles of student engagement policy**

**Approved by Assembly: 29/10/2014**

### **Assembly notes:**

1. That Assembly approved the Principles of Student Engagement last year
2. A series of subsequent meetings with the university led to some minor amendments to the principles that was felt were in keeping with the document:
  - a. It was suggested that student engagement is a two-way conversation and that the principles should show clearly that both staff and students have responsibilities in the process. Although this is implied throughout, for the avoidance of doubt the following has been appended to point 3: “of both staff and students”
  - b. One of the key principles is that student engagement applies across the whole university. While the Union is the central organisation for the representation of students, we felt it was important to explicitly mention the common rooms as key drivers for engagement. Point 4 has been amended to include: “as well as the Union and common rooms”.
  - c. Point 8 outlines the purpose of engagement and feedback. The results of such experiences may not be agreed by all parties, which is recognised by the inclusion of the following: “staff and students shall recognise the legitimacy of honest and polite disagreement”.
3. That University Senate has approved the changes outlined

### **Assembly resolves:**

1. To approve the final Principles of Student Engagement set out in Appendix 1.

## **Appendix 1**

### *Introduction*

1. Students and staff work in partnership to co-create Durham’s distinctive educational environment. Through effective student engagement in partnership with Durham Students’ Union, the University shall continue to enhance its provision, ensure a collegial and respectful environment based on mutual responsibilities of both staff and students, and develop our students’ skills and qualities.
2. Durham University’s Education Strategy is committed to ensuring that all members of the University work “together as an academic community committed to educational excellence and a culture of reflective practice”, and “a student-

centred approach to education”, where “students are inducted into academic communities of practice at the same time that they develop the intellectual and personal qualities that will prepare them for their future lives and employment.”

3. Durham Students’ Union is committed to being “an enabling students’ union which develops and supports our students as they strive to create a lasting, positive impact in society and in their own lives through their university experience.” The University shall develop an effective partnership with the Union, which is the representative body of all Durham students.
4. The following principles shall apply to student engagement across the University, including, but not limited to, academic departments, colleges, and professional support services, as well as the Union and common rooms.

### **Guiding Principles**

1. Either directly, or through their representatives, students shall be engaged in a meaningful manner in decision-making processes related to the student experience.
2. The Union and University shall agree the means by which students are represented on appropriate bodies within the University. The University shall recognise and respect the democratic processes of the Union by which representatives are selected.
3. It shall be made clear to all students the opportunities available to engage with the University, both formally and informally, on issues relevant to their diverse student experiences.
4. Students shall be made aware of the purpose for seeking engagement and feedback, and also its consequence and impact. Staff and students shall recognise the legitimacy of honest and polite disagreement.
5. Student engagement activity shall be timely, inclusive, collegial, well-communicated, and informed by relevant evidence.
6. Student engagement and feedback activity shall contribute to enhancement of the University’s educational provision, services and governance. Students and student representatives shall be encouraged to identify areas for enhancement, and work in partnership with staff to improve the life and work of the University.
7. Effective student engagement shall be a means of identifying student queries and concerns. Where concerns and queries are raised, the University and the Union shall provide a clear, timely and meaningful response.
8. Students shall be enabled and encouraged to praise and celebrate good practice across the University.
9. Engagement activities shall recognise the diversity of the student body, ensuring that typically underrepresented student groups and those with protected characteristics are equitably engaged.

10. The University and Union shall offer training, development and support opportunities to all staff and students involved in student engagement activity.
11. The University and Union shall monitor and review student engagement activity in order to ensure continuation of good practice, enhancement of engagement activity, and action in line with these principles.

## **Durham University to stop working with G4S policy**

**Approved by Assembly: 13/11/2014**



### **Assembly notes**

1. Durham University currently has a Secure Cash handling contract and Access Control to University buildings contract with G4S.
2. Several reports on G4S conducted by Amnesty International show grave human rights violations in G4S run prisons and detention centres.
3. In the UK, according to an Amnesty International Report, detainees and asylum seekers being deported have been subjected to unnecessary restraining techniques, one case leading to the death of Jimmy Mubenga.
4. G4S provides systems for the Ketziot and Megiddo prisons which hold Palestinian political prisoners from occupied Palestinian territory inside Israel, which is in violation of Article 76 of the fourth Geneva Convention. Human rights organisations have documented systematic torture and ill treatment of Palestinian prisoners including child prisoners.
5. A G4S prison in South Africa came under investigation by the South African government after leaked footage appeared to show electric shocks and forced injections used against the inmates.
6. The University's Secure Cash Handling Contract with G4S is due to end in February 2015.
7. The Access Control contracts are due to end in August 2015.
8. This campaign supported by the following Durham Students' Union societies: Friends of Palestine, Amnesty International, Labour Club, Feminist Society and the Durham Students for University Reform group.

### **Assembly believes**

1. That Durham University should not work with a company with a track record of human rights abuses.
2. As the contracts are expiring, this is a good opportunity for Durham University to disassociate itself from G4S as a company and find a more ethical alternative.
3. This is integral to Durham University's reputation, given G4S's global reputation of unethical conduct.

### **Assembly resolves**

1. For the President to lobby the University not to renew the Secure Cash Handling contract with G4S.
2. For the President to push for the university to investigate the viability of finding an alternative for the Access Control contract.

3. To mandate to the President to advocate ethical companies as an alternative to G4S.
4. For the Ethics and Environmental Committee to be consulted regarding possible alternative providers for the university.
5. To actively petition and encourage the University not to renew contracts with G4S next year promoting through the Union website and social media.



## **The Students' Union stance on the Marking Boycott**



**Approved by Assembly:** 13/11/2014

### **Assembly notes:**

1. The University and Colleges Union (UCU) began a comprehensive marking boycott on November 6th 2014 over a pension dispute between them and the pay awarding body UCEA.

### **Assembly believes:**

2. That all workers should have access to a fair pension scheme with appropriate member and employee contributions.
3. It is the Union's role to act in the best interest of its members and future members.
4. That it is inappropriate that students should suffer as a result of the pension dispute.

### **Assembly resolves:**

5. To mandate the President to lobby the local UCU branch to not take part in the marking boycott.
6. To mandate the Academic Affairs Officer and President to lobby the University to help bring a speedy resolution to the dispute.
7. To mandate the Academic Affairs Officer and the President to lobby the Durham UCU Branch to bring the resolution to a speedy resolution.
8. To mandate the Academic Affairs Officer and President to lobby the University to ensure the potential impacts are clearly communicated.

## **Academic Skills Policy**

**Approved by Assembly:** 12/03/2015



### **Assembly notes:**

1. Durham University has an inconsistent approach in terms of embedding academic and transferable skills into the curriculum.
2. There is a large focus nationally on the employability of students given the shift in funding for higher education and an increase in tuition fees.
3. Universities are expected to produce students ready for the workplace who can compete in a challenging employment market.

### **Assembly believes:**

1. Students should have equitable opportunities to access academic and transferable skills to support their learning and development whilst studying at Durham University.
2. There is duality of provision across academic departments and other University services.
3. The University should take a proactive approach to ensuring students have consistent access to academic and transferable skills, in a climate where these skills are increasingly important for our graduates.
4. Durham University degrees should equip and enables students to reach their full academic potential.
5. The University should proactively provide students access to transferable skills to enhance their employability and prepare graduates for the workplace and participate in society more widely.

### **Assembly resolves:**

1. To mandate the Academic Affairs Officer, Development Officer and relevant sub-committees of the Union to research this issue.
  - a. To investigate provisions and approaches to academic skills throughout the University.
  - b. Identify best practice and opportunities for quality enhancement.
  - c. To promote and engage with departments to share best practice in this area.

## **International Attainment Gap Policy**

**Approved by Assembly: 12/03/2015**



### **Assembly notes:**

1. Nationally, undergraduate students with international fee status are less likely to attain a 2:1 or 1<sup>st</sup> class degree than home students.
2. In 2013/14 85% of home students at Durham University achieved a 2:1 or 1<sup>st</sup> class degree whereas 75% of international students attained the same level.
3. Students from particular parts of the world were much less likely to receive a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2:1 in 2013/14:
  - a. 55% of students from Africa and the Middle East achieved good honours
  - b. 63% of students from Latin America and the Caribbean achieved good honours
  - c. 58% of students from Asia (except Singapore) achieved good honours
4. That Quality and Standards Sub Committee minute 14/24 notes that a learning support programme and an academic skills programme have been developed; that steps have been taken to implement the principles of diversity in the curriculum; that there is a lot of work being done in the areas of induction and transition into university, including in the Education Strategy 2015-20; that has been requested that the Strategic Planning Office will analyse the data further.
5. International students are not a homogenous group and the relationship between international students and achieving a 2:1 or 1<sup>st</sup> class degree is complex and multifaceted.

### **Assembly believes:**

1. That all students should have an equal opportunity to achieve a grade which is a reflection of their true potential.
2. That Durham University should work practically to be inclusive and fair for all.
3. That more needs to be done to ensure that the university meets the educational needs of a diverse student body.

### **Assembly resolves:**

1. To mandate the Academic Affairs Officer and relevant sub-committees to support the work of the university to implement the principles of diversity in the curriculum and encourage the university to advocate good diversity practice.
2. To mandate the Academic Affairs Officer and relevant sub-committees to lobby the university to expand and strengthen the academic skills programme and learning support programme, with specific consideration to international students.
3. To mandate the Academic Affairs Officer and relevant sub-committees to lobby the university to develop the use of technology to support learning.
4. To mandate the Academic Affairs Officer and relevant sub-committees to lobby the university to work to diversify assessment methods.

## Prevent Policy

Approved by Assembly: 12/03/2015



### Assembly notes:

1. On 26 November 2014, the Home Secretary Theresa May introduced the [Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill](#) (CTSB) to Parliament. She highlighted some revised and new counter-terrorism powers.
2. That CTSB seeks to make the [Prevent strategy statutory](#).
3. That according to the current Prevent Strategy, potential indicators of "radicalism" or "extremism" include:
  - a. "A need for identity, meaning and belonging"
  - b. "A desire for political or moral change."
  - c. "Relevant mental health issues."
4. That academics and campaigners fear the CTSB will criminalise ideas and [create a culture where students are unwilling to speak out](#).
5. The National Union of Students have [condemned the Counter terrorism and Security Bill](#) and described the Prevent strategy as "further developing a culture of suspicion and surveillance on campuses, whilst also potentially conflicting with institutions' duties to promote freedom of speech, by making them overly risk-averse and unwilling to engage in important topics of discussion."
6. That Universities UK have expressed [concerns about academic freedom](#) in their parliamentary briefing on the counter terrorism and security bill.

### Assembly believes:

1. Universities have a particular duty and mission to promote freedom of speech and academic freedom, including a legal duty under the Education (No.2) Act 1986 to ensure the use of university premises is not denied to any person or group basis of their beliefs or views.
2. That students should not be victimised for suffering from mental health issues.
3. That the Prevent strategy gives the Government undefined powers to order that "extremist" speakers to be banned and asks Universities and Students' Unions to monitor student activity for 'extremism'.
4. That any expectation by the state for academic staff to be involved in monitoring their students is deeply worrying, and could have a damaging effect on relations between staff and students.
5. The monitoring and exclusion of ideas from public debate opposes the basic function of universities.
6. That it is important that students are introduced to a variety of opinions and encouraging them to analyse and debate them.
7. The CTSB significantly undermines the freedom and activities of university staff and students.

**Assembly resolves:**

1. To mandate the Student Officers to issue a public statement condemning the Prevent strategy and the government's counter terrorism and security bill.
2. For the Student Officers to work with campus trade unions on combatting the Prevent strategy and lobby them to condemn the CTSB.
3. For the Student Officers to lobby the University to be more transparent about how the university intend to implement the changes.
4. For the student officers to encourage students to join the #studentsnotsuspects social media campaign and to raise awareness about the dangers of the counter terrorism and security bill and the Prevent strategy.

1.

## **Faith Space Policy**

**Approved by Assembly:** 30/04/2015



### **Assembly notes:**

1. Durham University attracts many students of different nationalities and faiths.
2. Some religions have rigorous prayer schedules which can be difficult to follow without interfering with students' academic work.
3. Some of the University colleges provide faith space for their students.

### **Assembly believes:**

1. The faith space on Durham University campus primarily caters to Christian students.
2. Lack of adequate prayer facilities can result in students missing their lectures due to their commitment to their faith or prayer schedules.
3. As not all faith spaces provided by Durham University cater for all religions, some students have to travel to access necessary facilities.
4. Durham University already works closely with some faith based student groups and should continue this.
5. The current faith provision across colleges can be too geared towards particular faiths.

### **Assembly resolves:**

1. To lobby the University to review the faith services that it currently offers in consultation with students from different faith societies.
2. To lobby the University to better advertise the faith services it currently offers.
3. To lobby the University to provide adequate faith space that is easily accessible by all students.

## **Improve Lower Mountjoy Centre**

**Approved by Assembly:** 30/04/2015



### **Assembly notes:**

1. The majority Durham University students do not live in college.
2. There are no cash machines near the Lower Mountjoy Centre meaning that students often have to leave campus to go to a cash machine.
3. There is currently no defibrillator on the Lower Mountjoy Centre.
4. Students are not allowed to consume food or drink in university cafes or restaurants unless they have been purchased on the premises.

### **Assembly believes:**

1. The Lower Mountjoy Centre should have adequate provision for all types of student, not just students living in college.
2. Safety is of paramount importance and all university buildings should have necessary safety equipment.
3. Students cannot always afford to purchase food on campus every day that they are studying on campus.
4. Students may often do academic work such as group work in cafes and be unable to do so if they cannot eat or drink while they are there.
5. Having an opportunity to speak to course mates in a social environment is integral to the student experience.

### **Assembly Resolves:**

1. For the Student Officers to lobby the University to install a cash machine so that students have access to money.
2. For the Student Officers to request that the University do a review of the first aid supplies available in each university building.
3. For the Student Officers to lobby the University to install a defibrillator in an accessible place on Lower Mountjoy Centre.
4. For the Student Officers to request that the University do a review of the space on Lower Mountjoy Centre in order to utilise the space that they have in order to provide social spaces for students.
5. For the Student Officers to lobby the University to provide a space where students can eat food not purchased on campus or review their rules regarding their cafes and restaurants.

## **Amendments to the membership of Community Committee**

**Approved by Assembly:** 13/11/2014



### **Assembly notes:**

1. The Students' Union has a Community Committee which is a subcommittee of Assembly.
2. Part of the membership of the committee comprises of four students living in non-university accommodation in areas of Durham. These areas are: Belmont, Elvet and Gilesgate, Nevilles Cross and South Durham.
3. Last year Community Committee did not meet.

### **This Union believes:**

1. The divisions in areas within the membership are quite arbitrary.
2. The committee would function more effectively if the areas mapped onto the residence's associations within Durham.
3. Community Committee is a great opportunity to influence change within the local community and direct the work of the Community Officer.

### **This Union resolves:**

1. To replace section 4 of appendix E1 with appendix 1;
2. For the election for members of Community Committee to take place before the next Assembly.



## **Zero Tolerance – Sexual Harassment**

**Approved by Assembly:** 13/11/2014



### **Assembly notes:**

1. Sexual consent refers to the agreement to participate in sexual activity.
2. That the NUS definition of sexual harassment is as follows:

The defining characteristics of sexual harassment are that it is unwanted and/or persistent behaviour of a sexual nature. Examples of unacceptable behaviour include: -

- a. Unwanted sexual comments (including comments about your body or private life)
  - b. Unwelcome sexual invitations, innuendoes, and offensive gestures
  - c. Wolf Whistling, catcalling, or offensive sexual noises
  - d. Groping, Pinching or smacking of the body
  - e. Having your clothing tugged, pulled or lifted without your consent
  - f. Someone exposing their sexual organs to you without your consent
3. There have been several incidents involving sexual harassment and assault around the UK which have led to many campuses taking action against it.
  4. The Hidden Marks report, published by the NUS Women's Campaign, revealed that 68% of women students have experienced sexual harassment while a student at their institution.
  5. Compulsory consent workshops were part of induction for Oxford and Cambridge University students in September 2014.

### **Assembly believes:**

1. Consent is a necessary part of any sexual interaction.
2. The Students' Union should be working to combat rape culture and sexual harassment.
3. Sexual consent education should be a normal part of every student's experience at University.
4. There is a culture of 'victim blaming' in society when it comes to sexual consent.

### **Assembly resolves:**

1. To mandate Welfare, Equality and Diversity committee create a zero tolerance policy in regards to sexual harassment and lobby for it to be advertised and enforced in throughout the University campus including college bars.
2. To mandate the Community Officer to lobby pubs, clubs and bars within Durham and Stockton to implement and enforce the zero tolerance policy.

3. To state the need for the University to introduce compulsory consent workshops from September 2015 during induction.
4. The Students' Union to work with the University to develop training and support for students in positions of responsibility on how to enforce the zero tolerance policy".
5. For Welfare, Equality and Diversity committee to lead a campaign in response to this issue.

## **Fossil Free**

### **Approved by Assembly:**

### **Assembly notes:**



1. Freedom of Information requests have revealed that the university to not keep their quarterly periodic reports of investments. It is highly likely that the University invests in fossil fuel companies.
2. In their 2010-2020 strategic plan, Durham University state they wish to be 'widely regarded as a university at the forefront of environment sustainability'
3. The world's 200 largest fossil fuel companies, by proven carbon reserves are well in excess of the amount of carbon that can be safely burned to have a chance of staying below 2C of global warming
4. CarbonTracker's Unburnable Carbon 2013[\[1\]](#) report which highlights the overvaluation of fossil fuel reserves and the huge financial risks of investing in fossil fuels.
5. That People & Planet, in partnership with 350.org and others, has launched a Fossil Free UK campaign, calling on UK higher education institutions to divest from fossil fuels and sever their links with these companies.[\[2\]](#)
6. Glasgow University and the University of Bedfordshire have agreed to divest from fossil fuels for both moral and financial reasons.[\[3\]](#)

### **Assembly Believes:**

1. That we are running out of time to keep global warming below 2C above pre-industrial levels- the limit for ensuring a safe and stable future for the economy, the planet and all people on it, as recently outlined in the IPCC's 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report.[\[4\]](#)
2. That the fossil fuel industry, by extracting, processing, promoting and facilitating the use of, selling and profiting from fossil fuels, as well as by having a major influence on government policy, is complicit in causing climate change and its catastrophic impacts.
3. That we must do everything in our power to rapidly reduce the global use of fossil fuels and expand clean energy alternatives
4. That our university should be a role model in society, acting responsibly and helping create a safe future that is better for everyone.

**Assembly Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Ethical and Environmental Committee to coordinate and put resources toward a high-profile Fossil Free campaign around fossil fuel divestment on campus, including the dissemination of information about Durham University's investments and the companies it invests in.
2. To mandate the President to request updates of the university's investment portfolio and to share them with Ethical and Environmental committee.
3. For the President to lobby the university to work toward ending all future investments in fossil fuel companies and to divest from fossil fuel industry companies.
4. For the President to lobby the university to make a public commitment to divesting from fossil fuels.
5. To mandate the Student Officers and Ethical and Environmental Committee to actively work with Durham University People & Planet Society and other external organisations involved in fossil fuel divestment and related campaigns.

**President, Alice Dee**

**Plan of Work update**

**Priority One:** *I will make sure College Students' Union Reps play a key role in shaping Durham SU because I understand the importance of Colleges in our time at Durham and it's so important that we work better with your reps.*

Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
Establishment of a regular meeting with College Union Reps.	Meetings work well as informal communication between the SU and Colleges. Most business is adhoc.	We now need to establish purpose and direction to meetings, particularly around formalising communication.
Developing the definition of role 'College Union Rep'	The current definition and role outline of a Union rep requires expansion and critique.	Develop then implement a Universal definition of a 'Union rep'
SU Staff support for Colleges	We're developing staff roles to help engagement which allows a clearer contact for support and communication within the SU.	Recruitment and induction of the post.
Meeting with JCRs	Part of the induction of new Chief Exec.	Develop proposal for strategy away day with College Reps and Presidents.

**Priority Two:** *I will insure as many students as possible are involving in making decisions about things that affect them. We're entering a big time of change in Durham and it's vital that we, as a student body, help shape what's going on around us.*

Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
Creation of consultation group with key student representative from across DU student community.	Groups include reps from societies, sports, JCRs, MCRs and associations.	The group will meet in January.
Drafting a framework for consultation to be implemented by the above working.	This framework gives tiered options for consultation, depending on the potential impact of the decision.	Finalise draft and circulate to the working group ahead of our meeting.

**Priority Three:** *I will make sure Queen's Campus students keep benefiting from the best student experience possible. Because in the lead up to and during the move of Queen's up to Durham, we need to make sure that student priorities are the focus of decisions and that Queen's students are welcomed to Durham.*

Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
QC Transition group membership	I now attend the main transition group meeting.	Eventually present proposals to group.
Newcastle SU relations	Met with Newcastle SU regarding providing support to students moving from QC to Newcastle.	Update website with information for students, arrange meetings between Newcastle and key leads in Queens.
Housing talk for students moving to Durham.	Gave an informal talk about accommodation areas in Durham and answered questions.	

**Other actions and meetings**

Activity	Officer comment	Change made for students
University strategy meetings	This literally takes up my whole	Keeping student views a priority

	life!	during development and implementation of new strategy.
NUS; Zones, Governance review, Demo	Engaging with national politics things.	Giving a wider perspective into the sector and national politics.
Officer roles and work distribution review	Most of this work is seen in the attached paper about the officer positions.	(Hopefully) A better structured and directed officer team.
SU strategy	To be finished by June	Strategic direction for the SU.
Champagne Society	Lots of media attention...	Improving the way that all student groups work.
PVC recruitment and induction	New UEC members were recruited, now working on their induction.	Ensuring that figures at the highest levels of DU leadership prioritised students and their needs.
Divestment commission	Sitting on the commission to decide whether to divest from fossil fuels.	Student led action and change based on a view from the student body.
Accommodation fees	Liaison with the University on fee setting, the consultation process and the communication of messages.	A fairer and more transparent process for student fee setting.
Post Officer Visit Day saga	Working with the University and common rooms on the introduction of a new POVD.	Support for common room Presidents and ensuring the experience of future students is prioritised.

Academic Affairs Officer: Lisa Whiting

Priority One: Develop, implement and review the new undergraduate course rep system		
Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course rep elections completed, with last few positions being filled</li> <li>New training delivered to course reps</li> <li>Facebook groups to support and communicate</li> <li>Developing structure to meet with every course rep</li> <li>Held first ever Academic Forum</li> </ul>	<p>New election system is a positive step forward and has helped improve relationships with departments and the University.</p> <p>A few errors need to be ironed out for next year so working with the Academic Support Office to make sure it's ready.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looking at providing additional training sessions for course rep development</li> <li>Organising meetings with reps for the new year</li> </ul>

Priority Two: Research and develop a new system for postgraduate representation		
Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helped with review of PG representation within Union structure with a focus on academic representation</li> <li>Working to increase the number of PG reps on university committees</li> <li>Currently collating information on cross-faculty representation structures</li> <li>Attending a postgraduate conference to learn more about PG issues and ways to tackle them</li> </ul>	<p>The review of officer roles in light of PG representation was very insightful and even without the new proposals I feel we've learnt a lot about how we need to better represent postgraduates. This includes improving structures but also looking at how we actively engage PGs.</p> <p>At the time of writing I haven't yet attended the postgraduate conference but I hope this provides some insight into PG representation from Unions thriving in this area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with PG representatives to create a report and recommendations for departments and faculties on PG academic representation</li> </ul>

Priority Three: Reinforce and promote the rights of PGR students		
Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Met with the Head of the Counselling Service to discuss PG mental health support. There are now PG workshops on mental health related topics</li> <li>Met with Head of PG Training and Development to highlight issues on support, supervisor and pay. He's exploring ways of improving accountability of supervisors specifically complaints procedures</li> <li>Met with UCU to discuss PG membership and issues</li> <li>Arranging a meeting with Stuart Corbridge and the Head of HR to discuss PGR pay and contract</li> </ul>	<p>The progress with the counselling service is positive however I'm also looking to hold a follow-up meeting to discuss other causes such as supervisor support and post-PhD options.</p> <p>At MCR Presidents' dinner there was a broad agreement in the poor PGR pay and work conditions. Given the recent negative press surrounding graduate teaching assistant pay, I'm optimistic a lot of progress could be made in this area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with the Counselling Service and Academic and Researcher Development to improve training and support</li> <li>Conduct research into work conditions of PGR students</li> <li>Use evidence to inform discussions with University to establish minimum departmental standards for PGR pay and support</li> <li>Work with the Advice Service to monitor PGR specific complaints</li> </ul>

Other actions and meetings		
Activity	Officer comment	Change made for students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PVC (Education) recruitment</li> <li>Part of advisory group for new Teaching &amp; Learning Facility</li> <li>Student Systems Advisory Group</li> <li>Library Steering Group</li> <li>TEF &amp; WP meeting in light of recently passed SU policy</li> <li>Strictly Durham (week)</li> </ul>	<p>Between the HE reforms and the University's new strategy, there's a lot going on. Sometimes it's difficult to know what to prioritise but working on the basis of making an impact on current and future students.</p> <p>Meeting to discuss issues as outlined in HE Reforms Policy went well and officers will now be involved in the creation of the Access Agreement as well as being a contributor to the TEF submission. Updates on other areas to follow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lecture capture and electronic SAC forms are on the way</li> <li>Eating space in the library is potentially back on the cards</li> <li>Gained a commitment to additional social learning space in new T&amp;L build with plenty of space for eating your own food. Hopefully also a cash machine</li> <li>Module Evaluation Questionnaires are changing for the better</li> </ul>

## Activities Officer - Kara-Jane Senior

### Plan of Work update

**Priority One:** I will show how participation in student activities benefits and improves students' experience at Durham, because this research will enable students, employers and wider society to understand the importance of our work.

Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project team set, and tasks planned out for the year.</li> <li>Currently reviewing questions for the participation survey.</li> </ul>	This project will consist of two student surveys; the first looking at participation in student groups, and the second on the impact of participation in student groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share questions with other interested parties (e.g. Experience Durham) and determine final survey.</li> <li>Survey will go live before the end of term.</li> </ul>

**Priority Two:** I will make Durham SU processes easier for student groups, because our most dedicated volunteers deserve our best efforts to make their work hassle-free, and rewarding.

Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project team set.</li> <li>Identified information to be added to the website to improve students' understanding of current Union processes.</li> </ul>	This project will focus on making student group processes more efficient and easier for students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan out project tasks for the rest of the year.</li> <li>Map out processes to determine the expected standard for staff and volunteers.</li> </ul>

**Priority Three:** I will make sure Durham SU supports all student groups to provide outstanding experiences for their members, because we need to assure basic standards and celebrate outstanding achievements in one, simple, process.

Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project team determined.</li> </ul>	This project seeks to implement a quality societies scheme, to support execs and ensure a minimum standard experience for students regardless of group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan out project tasks for the rest of the year.</li> <li>Conduct research into similar schemes at other students' unions.</li> </ul>

### Other actions and meetings

Activity	Officer comment	Change made for students
Lessons From Auschwitz	I have been taking part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons From Auschwitz programme over the past few weeks, which included a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. A number of student leaders were invited to take part by the Union of Jewish Students to look at anti-racism and anti-fascism on university campuses, and to engage students in Holocaust Memorial Day.	Through sharing my experience and supporting students to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, I hope to widen understanding of the consequences of prejudice and discrimination. The ultimate aim is to make our University as inclusive and safe as possible, and encourage graduates to shape the wider world to be so too.
Student group Ordinary grant allocations	This year we received over 85 grant applications with eligible	Subsidised activities make student group participation more



	requests totalling just over £39,000. However, only £23,800 was available for societies in funds so not all requests could be funded. (Associations are funded from a ring-fenced pot of money.)	affordable and inclusive.
Refreshers Fair	This will be a joint event with Experience Durham, and on a smaller scale than the Union Fair.	Another opportunity to explore extra-curricular activities at Durham, particularly new groups that have formed since October.
Meetings with student groups	All student groups this term are meeting with a Union staff member. Some of these meetings have highlighted things to discuss with groups further.	Better support for individual student groups.
Student Officer elections prep	[I am the only officer that cannot re-run in the next election.]	The process for students nominating themselves and campaigning with be easier add more comfortable.
General student officer tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparing for new college-base Raise Your Voice drop-in sessions.</li> <li>▪ Review of Officer roles – remit and support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More interaction between students and officers.</li> <li>▪ Enable officers to be more effective representatives and leaders of students.</li> </ul>

Community Officer – Jo Gower

## Plan of Work update

Priority One: Representation for Underrepresented Groups		
Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
<p><b>Association</b> Collaboration set up and working on identifying intersectional campaigns that they can run together.</p> <p><b>Planning</b> a video for Human Rights Day.</p> <p><b>Met</b> with the Manager of Equality and Diversity who has agreed to a meeting with Presidents of Associations to discuss how University E&amp;D can work with students to improve life for minority students.</p> <p><b>Working</b> with Team Durham and the LGBT+ Association to develop a trans and intersex inclusion in sports policy, and an inclusion steering group.</p>	<p><b>The</b> Collaboration has been met with much enthusiasm, and many areas for development have been identified, including training for college reps and overarching campaign ideas – a huge thanks to the Associations for their passion and fantastic ideas.</p>	<p><b>Enable</b> the Associations to develop comprehensive training for college LGBT+, Disabled, International, Mature, and PoC/BME reps.</p> <p><b>Facilitate</b> the meeting of the Associations with the E&amp;D team at the University.</p>

Priority Two: Changing attitudes toward sexual violence and harassment		
Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
<p><b>Have</b> been working with SVMOG to develop a strategy for approaching the upcoming sexual violence campaign.</p> <p><b>Attended</b> the All-Party Parliamentary Group meeting in Parliament last week to discuss sexual violence at Universities.</p> <p><b>Met</b> with some people from York University to discuss student sex workers and the support which can be offered to them if they would like to have it.</p> <p><b>Met</b> with Durham Police to discuss a potential Ask For Angela campaign within County Durham and College Bars.</p>	<p><b>Progress</b> on the University front is slow – there are many hoops we have to jump through, and this takes time. We are setting up a focus group to get student input into the campaign.</p> <p><b>The</b> police have been incredibly helpful on this topic, and also LGBT+ inclusive which is fantastic to see.</p>	<p><b>Meet</b> with the focus group to solidify the campaign plan.</p> <p><b>Confirm</b> a communication strategy with the University for the campaign.</p>

Priority Three: Improving the experience of students with disabilities		
Project progress	Officer comment	Next steps
<p><b>Have</b> been meeting with E&amp;D about an 'inclusive design' plan for the development of the estate to ensure that all new buildings are fully accessible.</p> <p><b>Engaging</b> in discussions around ring-fencing of accessibility budgets for the estates development.</p> <p><b>Updating</b> and writing the Fit to Return to Study policy and Mental Health policy.</p> <p><b>Meeting</b> with Counselling Service to discuss student mental health.</p> <p><b>Developing</b> an accessibility survey with SwDA.</p> <p><b>The</b> University E&amp;D team have accepted that accessibility is an issue and will be contacting 'Disabled Go' to update the app for Durham property.</p>	<p><b>The</b> University seems keen to engage on this topic, which is promising.</p> <p><b>There</b> has been a focus on long-term changes over the development of the new estate, which will improve the experiences of students at Durham in the future, and the policy modifications will have an effect both now and going forward.</p>	<p><b>Begin</b> discussion with medical centre about prices of medical notes.</p> <p><b>Further</b> the discussion with Disability Service and Estates and Buildings/Facilities regarding cuts to the DSA and how the University is planning on combatting the negative implications.</p> <p><b>Arrange</b> a meeting with Antony Long to discuss disability through an E&amp;D lens.</p> <p><b>Finalise</b> and distribute accessibility survey.</p>

## Adam Jarvis - Development Officer

Objectives 2016 - 2017

### Priority 1: #WorkInsights

Project Progress	Officer Comment	Next Steps
Working with Careers Centre to identify current opportunities and develop the joint Part Time Jobs and Volunteering Fair.	Very pleased with the new relationship between the Union and Careers, as well as the turnout and feedback from our first event.	Continue to work with Careers to expand 'alternative career' opportunities.
Set up student focus group for employability and skills.	Update was written before the meeting but looking forward to the first (and subsequent) meetings.	Student focus group to help shape the direction of future initiatives, including Work Insights.
Research undertaken to establish what employers are looking for and student engagement with careers offerings.	Good return from both research methods and the results are currently being compiled.	Contacting employers to establish placements for the programme which hopes to launch in time for the Easter and Summer holidays.

### Priority 2: #SupportingDUCK

Project Progress	Officer Comment	Next Steps
Identified key areas for training for DUCK and successfully delivered this with the help of external charity partner to the exec.	Positive feedback at the session on the training offered, particularly for the fundraising section.	Work with DUCK to identify any further training, particularly for new exec members. Identify appropriate support structure with Union staff and work with the DUCK Chair to develop a long term plan.
Establishing external partnerships which help foster local community focus and offer opportunities for match funding for DUCK.	Really excited at the possibilities which the charities we have met with can offer to DUCK, particularly in terms of match funding.	Working with the DUCK Chair and Union staff to ensure a positive outcome for both DUCK and external partners.

### Priority 3: #SupportingCommonRooms

Project Progress	Officer Comment	Next Steps
Regular meetings with Union reps to improve communication.	Good turn-out at meetings so far with hopes to make these more productive for the coming term.	Work with the President and Union reps in reviewing the purpose of and support for Union reps.
Working with the Union reps to organise college drop ins with the Officers. Working with Officers to increase presence across the University.	Update was written before formal drop ins began but response from going to John's SJCR Meeting as well as attendance at first Queen's Campus drop in was positive.	Continue with college drop ins, improving them based on feedback within colleges, as well as continuing with Queen's Campus office hours.
Active Bystander intervention training was delivered to freshers reps across 14 of the colleges.	Really pleased with the positive feedback from active bystander training from freps and this is being offered to other interested student groups.	Reviewing and developing the training offered by the Union to common rooms, as well as discussing plans for the year with the university.

TO: Assembly  
 FROM: Societies Committee  
 RE: New Society Ratification  
 DATE: 28 November 2016

The Union has received several applications for new societies. Societies Committee has met and makes the following recommendations:

Society	Description	Aims	Recommendation from Societies Committee
Research	<p>RESEARCH is a student run magazine focused on scientific discovery from a variety of disciplines (Anthropology, Archaeology, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology... the list goes on!)</p> <p>Anyone with an interest in scientific journalism, or writing in general, is welcome to contribute! The aim is to publish an issue per month, including opinion pieces, feature articles and case studies of recent work.</p> <p>The idea behind the society is to provide a platform for scientific discussion, and the opportunity to gain valuable writing experience</p>	<p>The idea of RESEARCH is to provide a platform for scientific discussion between Durham students of various disciplines, and a valuable opportunity to gain experience in scientific journalism. Publications will be produced per month, by compiling student contributions. Each issue will contain a variety of pieces - from feature articles to case studies of recent work. Essentially, RESEARCH will serve alongside current media societies to interest and inform readers!</p>	Ratify
English Law Students Association	<p>ELSA is a Law Association at Durham University that is striving to enhance its members' employability in the legal sector. We welcome students of any degree, age or nationality who are interested in Law.</p> <p>We aim to host events that allow you, the members, to personally connect with law firm representatives, academics and other professionals, so you can improve your applications to them and better understand their work. Instead of being one student amongst hundreds listening to a presentation, ELSA enables its members to actively engage with our guests. To this end, we will host:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- individual law firm events</li> <li>- legal addresses</li> <li>- an Alternative Legal Careers Forum</li> <li>- a Life Outside London Forum</li> </ul>	<p>ELSA aims to enhance its members' employability by providing them with opportunities to personally connect with law firm representatives, academics and other legal professionals. This will improve their ability to network and understanding of the profession, hence their graduate prospects.</p> <p>ELSA also wants to enhance its members' employability throughout the whole of the legal sector, by making students aware there are many jobs beyond the few that are consistently advertised. To this end, we will host a Life Outside London Forum to highlight local, regional and national law firms that students can apply to. Also, we will host an Alternative Legal Careers Forum in conjunction with the Careers Department, to expose students to careers in which their Law Degree or</p>	Ratify

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a Christmas Dinner</li> <li>- a Cocktail Making Evening</li> </ul>	interest in Law will be beneficial.	
Ale appreciation	This is a society for all who either enjoy drinking ale or for those who would like to give it a go. We will sample various ales, local and commercial and develop our understanding of real ale.	We hope for all our members to be able to reach a high level of appreciation for real ale and to be able to understand the differences in ales, the brewing methods for example. We would have meetings in which we taste and discuss various types of ale. In addition, we would hope to be able to visit local beer festivals and to take part in ale trails.	Ratify
Parkour Freerunning Society	Parkour is the quickest way to get from point A) to point B). Free running incorporates flips into the practise. This society looks at both of these styles and tailors classes so as to best suit to its members' requirements. Basically, you want to do a backflip? We will teach you to backflip. If you want to learn how to vault over high walls and jump long distances then, we will teach you that. Classes are relaxed and are often flexible due to the 'free' dynamic of parkour. Places we train will vary between urban areas around Durham, and a weekly gym session to isolate certain skills and improve your parkour freerunning technique. The society will also organise trips to nearby surrounding areas to find the best places to parkour and freerun in the North East.	<p>We the Parkour and Free running society pledge to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Practise free running</li> <li>-Practise Parkour</li> <li>-Be a free and open society encouraging diversity in its members and appreciate differences</li> <li>-Encourage each other to push ourselves best of our abilities</li> <li>-Broaden our horizons get to know the limits of our bodies</li> <li>-Show members places they haven't been before and make people look at both their movement and environment in a different way</li> <li>-Make Parkour and Free Running cool again</li> </ul>	Ratify
Queen's Campus Trading and Investing Society	Durham University Queen's Campus Trading and Investment Society offers all students, undergraduate and postgraduate, the opportunity to further develop their investment knowledge and gain exposure into the role of a trader. This will be achieved through open discussions around market research and stock analysis within the regular meetings, for people to effectively apply their knowledge and to learn from other people's experiences. We will host regular Simulation Trading Challenges to allow members with little to no experience to partake in stimulating trading sessions.	<p>To further develop investment knowledge and gain exposure into the role of a trader for members.</p> <p>To initiate regular trading competitions to allow members with little to no experience to partake in stimulating trading sessions</p> <p>To attract various speakers, who are eager to deliver presentations about their expertise in their field</p> <p>To allow members to gain insights into the effect that current affairs have on the business environment.</p>	Ratify – if they change their name to Trading and Investment Society
Field Game Society	The DFGS exists to promote the playing of the historic sport known as the Field Game. As the precursor of modern association football it has tremendous heritage and is a terrific sport in its own right. So don't be caught sneaking, join up, join in and play the game!	<p>The DFGS exists to promote the playing of the historic sport known as the Field Game. As the precursor of modern association football it has tremendous heritage and is a terrific sport in its own right.</p> <p>The Field Game is an athletic sport, one</p>	Ratify

		<p>of Eton College's two brands of football, the other being the Wall Game. It is like soccer in some ways – the ball is round and a player is not allowed to pick it up – but the offside rules are more complicated (there being both horizontal and lateral offside) and there is also a scrum called a 'bully'. A team scores goals much as in soccer (although there is no goal-keeper), and one can also score 'rouges' (rather like tries) and attempt to convert them. A team is formed of 11 players in all; seven players make up the bully, a 'fly' plays behind the bully players (similar to a scrum-half) and there are three 'behinds'. Whilst the fly and the behinds generally possess greater footballing skill, the key to success lies with the bully players and their teamwork and fitness. This combination of physicality and technical proficiency makes it a sport with tremendous appeal to all kinds of sports people.</p>	
The Definite Article	<p>The Definite Article is Durham University's Modern Languages and Cultures magazine. Whether you would like to write about arts, music, or cuisine; tell us about your Year Abroad or travel experiences; conduct Interviews with academics, keep up to date with current affairs; or talk about translation and new discoveries in linguistics — we welcome all submissions!</p>	<p>We aim to create a flexible platform for those who would like to write on or read about topics of linguistic and/or cultural interest, whether they be home or international students wanting to publish pieces in English or the target language. No other publication in Durham currently caters for the needs of such students this extensively, so the concept would really help to engage those who, outside the academic sphere and otherwise, wouldn't be able to get their voices heard.</p>	Ratify
Marxist Society	<p>We hold regular fortnightly discussion meetings where we invite speakers to talk on aspects of Marxist Theory, the history of the labour movement and their application to current events. We also make sure afterwards to continue the discussion in the informal setting of a bar and organise socials in between our formal meetings. We are not just a discussion club though we also actively engage in the local community and labour movement, taking part in demonstrations and supporting workers in struggle on the picket lines.</p>	<p>The main aim of the society is to engage students and the wider community in the study of Marxist ideas and their application to the world around us.</p> <p>In so doing, we plan to organise a group through which we can express solidarity with, and support for, the local, national and international labour movements.</p> <p>In all of this activity our wider aim is to take part in the fight for socialism and the general overthrow of capitalism on a world scale.</p>	Ratify
Applied Psychology Society	<p>The Applied Psychology Society is a group which encourages social and academic interaction and development of its members. It offers socials, career</p>	<p>DUAPS aims to expand the knowledge, interest and engagement of students on the Applied Psychology course by providing Special Guest Lectures for</p>	Reject – exist as a sub group of Psychology as they have similar aims.

	talks and special guest lectures in psychology topics to develop and provide opportunities and engage students on many levels for personal development as well as career planning.	<p>students to attend. These academic events vary in topic but are always an opportunity to explore something new which they would not otherwise discover in the modules provided by the department, both the Applied Psychology (C817) and Psychology (C800) departments.</p> <p>Whilst our society shares the same aims and objectives with the Psychology society for the C800 course, I believe that we currently achieve our academic objectives and aims, whereas the psychology society does not.</p> <p>Furthermore, with the two courses currently being delivered across two campuses, each society cannot fully deliver their aims and objectives to the other course due to the issues that the distance has created and sustains.</p> <p>Ratifying our society will allow us to have a solid foundation for a financial account, a support network in event organisation and allow us to be prepared for the transition of the program.</p>	They are based at Queen's Campus so they can be the sub group which is based there.
Gin Society	A gin appreciation society that is trying to allow people to be educated and enjoy a variety of different brands of gin.	Aim of the society is mainly the education and enjoyment of gin. Especially since Durham has its own distillery there will be plenty of opportunities to experience Durham's own gin, as well as the occasional fieldtrip!	Ratify
Informal Political Discussion Society	IPDG is a political discussion group which meets weekly. Its aim is to bring students together with local people in an environment which is without pressure and without competition. Unlike other political groups, it is completely non-aligned. It aims not to construct debates in which one side wins and the other loses but to promote consensus and middle ground even when opinions are radically different. As such, each session ends with a brief discussion of what has been agreed upon. The group aims to bridge the gap between Durham students and Durham locals, providing a much needed voice for those to whom political engagement is desirable but daunting.	<p>The society's aims are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To encourage debate; that is, to ensure that any and every view may be heard.</li> <li>- To encourage participants to think more closely about other perspectives, critiquing their logic rather than shutting them down.</li> <li>- To encourage more nuanced perspectives; the group believes strongly that perspectives, when discussed in a constructive and open way, are always less extreme and divisive than they may initially appear.</li> <li>- To provide a forum to people who desperately need it; that is, for individuals who are passionate about politics and passionate about making a difference but with nowhere in particular to channel that passion.</li> <li>- To encourage students and local people to engage in discussion, thereby hopefully bridging the vast gap between student life and local life.</li> <li>- Most importantly, to encourage</li> </ul>	Ratify

		constructive consensus; that is, to discuss and document at the end of every session what, if anything, has been agreed upon, providing points which may well prove invaluable for the wider political sphere in Durham.	
Buddhist Society	Meditation, audio talks and discussion at our friendly weekly sessions. The committee will introduce material from different Western Buddhist teachers. There is no affiliation to any particular denomination. Beginners, and expressions of interest in what you would like to include in the sessions, welcome.	To provide weekly sessions where students and staff can meditate and explore Buddhism.	Ratify
Polish Society	We have created this society to unite Poles and Durhamites of Polish descent studying at Durham University as well as Poles in the local community into one network. We also invite all those interested in polish history, culture and traditions to join. You do not have to be Polish or speak Polish to join. All are welcome	Given the wide range of talents, interests and hobbies in our Polish group, we would like to organise a wide range of events, socials and activities. There are many societies which we would like to work with, such as the Bulgarian Society or see potential to work with in order to promote culture, cooking, debating, languages, art, poetry and media. We want to promote Polish arts through hosting movie nights and poetry readings. We also want to promote Polish language and therefore, we would provide a platform to learn it for those willing to speak it. Similarly, we would like to host English language lessons for Poles in the wider community who want more practice. The Polish diaspora is ever-growing in Durham and this society gives us all an opportunity to connect and, for those who are not as familiar with Poland, to learn more about its culture and history.	Ratify
Rugby Supporters Society	The Durham University Rugby Supporters Society aims to allow students to watch high quality professional rugby affordably. We run regular trips to Newcastle Falcons to watch them play some of England's best teams. We aim to provide tickets at the cheapest prices possible to allow as many students as possible to witness the best rugby the north east has to offer. As well as this we have regular socials in the pubs of Durham to watch major rugby events such as the Six Nations and the Premiership final.	Our aim is to provide a society that allows Durham students to pursue their passion for professional rugby sociably and affordably. While Durham has multiple rugby teams, there is little provision for those that do not play rugby but support and follow teams in the Aviva Premiership. The Rugby Supporters Society aims to host a number of events such as socials in pubs to watch big matches and also provide subsidised tickets to watch Newcastle Falcons play at least twice a term. The society also aims to be as inclusive as possible. Rugby at Durham is often associated with lad culture and	Ratify



		exclusivity. The Rugby Supporters Society aims to provide an environment for students to enjoy following professional rugby regardless of gender, race, class, sexual orientation or drinking ability.	
Magic	The Magic Society aim to provide members with basic social and practical magic classes in which they can easily learn to perform funny magic tricks in their party and company, even when they meeting with clients. We try to offer the opportunities for everyone to enhance self-confidence and communicating skills, while you able to become a person like "Harry Potter" who is charming and unbelievable. Furthermore, they also have the opportunities to take part in international magic festival and magic lectures all over UK where they can communicate with professional magician and masters. The president of our society is an international awarded professional magician, We provide weekly events for members including magic classes and workshops, magic competition, magic show videos and the opportunities to perform and practise magic!! We just want to teach everyone to be an excellent magician!!		Ratify
Durham for Accessible Education	We are a new campaign group who have decided to take action after Durham's decision to increase tuition fees in a world of less student support and rising costs. We believe in accessible education for all.	Durham for Accessible Education (DfAE) is a campaign group which seeks to empower students by campaigning for an educational experience which is accessible for all. Through our campaigning, we hope to ensure Durham is a socially diverse and accepting place for years to come. Our aims are far-reaching, as we hope to raise awareness of the financial barriers to a wonderful experience at Durham, both in terms of formal education and the informal world of student life. Moreover, it is our aim to support students who may feel excluded from taking part in student life because of a financially inaccessible surrounding, providing welfare support and signposting. Members of DfAE also gain vital skills through the medium of student activism, honing communication skills, an awareness of current political issues and practical problem-solving abilities, working to improve social issues within Durham and the wider community.	Ratify



TO: Assembly  
FROM: Governance and Grants Committee  
RE: Ordinary Grant Allocations  
DATE: 28 November 2016

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### **Issue**

You are asked to ratify the work of the Governance and Grants Committee (the Committee) with regard to awarding of Ordinary Grants to student groups.

### **Background**

The Committee have completed their review of the Ordinary Grant applications by student groups and associations. Over 65 applications were received requesting more than £68,000 of grant funding. The Committee had slightly over £23,500 to award. During the first part of the review, those applications that failed to meet two essential criteria (inclusion of an annual budget and attendance at Union Finance Training) were deemed ineligible and notified. Table 1 attached hereto provides a list of those applications. The remaining applications (57) were divided amongst Committee members for review prior to the meetings. The Committee met on 16 November and 18 November to discuss the applications. Those members that reviewed the applications lead the discussion offering recommendations on particular applications. The Committee discussed, debated where necessary and voted on each application. Table 2 attached hereto provides the decision of the Committee along with the reasoning if partial or no funding was given. Table 3 provides the amounts requested and awarded. Applicants were notified the week of 21 November with the Committee's decision.

One applicant (Treasure Trap) disputes the Committee's decision and requested that it be brought to Assembly. The Committee understands the disappointment unsuccessful applicants feel. There were many requests and with limited funds, the Committee scrutinized applications as required by and pursuant to the Student Grant Allocation Regulations. Those regulations do not provide any challenge to decisions made by the Committee. This particular applicant was provided additional explanation as to the Committee's decision and we feel it would be improper for Assembly to review each unsuccessful application.

### **Action**

The Committee requests that you ratify all of its decisions regarding student group Ordinary Grants as reflected in the tables attached.

Table 1

<b>Name of Group</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Accounting and Finance	No budget
Animal Rights	No budget
Arthur Holmes Geological	No budget
Arts & Humanities	No budget
Belly Dancing	No budget
British Sign Language	No budget
Chess	No budget
Computer Soc	No budget
Eastern European	Only food and drink on the application
General Larp	No budget
Guitar Hero	No budget
Heads Up	No budget
Indonesian	Not attended finance training
International Students Association	No budget
Islamic	No budget
Jazz	No budget
Kurdish	No budget & not attended finance training
Liberal Thinkers	No budget & not attended finance training
Marrow	Not attended finance training
Northern Society	No budget
Orthodox Christian	No budget
Physics	No budget
Poetry	No budget
Politics & International Relations	No budget
Sports Analytics	No budget
Thai Boxing	No budget

Table 2

Group Name	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Equipment
Aerial Arts	NA	NA	NA	Books – fully funded
Amnesty International	£250 - FF	£79.09 - FF	£15 - FF	
Anglo-Japanese	NF - have enough funds in reserves and through membership fees. Increase membership fees if need be.	NF	NF	NF
Anthropology	NF – the annual budget doesn't include any other events. You have £1500 in reserves anyway and the whole event is £1000 so you wouldn't be at a loss without a grant.	No evidence of coach hire costings. No information on supplementing costs.		
Archaeology	NF – no evidence of costings	NF -	NF – not enough information about	
Art	FF £300 – it will benefit students and the students are also paying towards it.	FF - £180	FF - £150	<b>Activity 4-</b> NF - while this was a good request, due to the number of other requests, some activities could not be funded.
Assassins	FF - £46.83	FF - £625	FF - £40	FF - £255.87
Astronomical	NF – you have reserves and at the end of the year you will still have £1000 and you don't specify what equipment you want.			
Atheist, Secularist and Humanist	£536.60 in total - £240 off because if you have 20 people at each event who pay £2 each for each event then this will subsidise some costs. Could increase membership fees.			
Baking	FF			
BALADS	PF - £300 you have money in your reserves and could charge non-members more	NF – even after the events for the year without a grant you will have £900		
Ballet	NF – too much money in reserves			
Breakdance	PF - £480 no £720 because if participants pay £1 per session this			FF - £100

	will make up the costs			
Bridge	PF - £69 for entry tickets but not for transport – could apply for a special grant nearer the time if needed	FF - £50		FF – £78.99
Calisthenics	FF			
Catholic	FF - £276	FF - £276	FF - £400	
Change ringers	FF - £500			FF - £177
Cocktail	FF - £170.50	FF - £250		PF - £113.37 – glasses can break and will all the glasses be used at once, if not then you won't need 80+ like requested.
Conservation				PF - £280 for gloves and the minibus, not funded for food or the Summer residential as there isn't enough information
Conservative	FF- £68 for accommodation	NF – the meal is too expensive and there will only be a limited number of students sat near the MP during the meal who will be able to talk to him. Not a large amount of members will benefit.		
Creative writing	FF	FF		FF
Dancesport	NF – events/balls should be self-funding.	FF - £200	FF - £300	
DICCU	NF – too much money in reserves to be eligible for a grant especially when funds are limited			
Electric motorsport	FF - £1000			
Equestrian	FF £200	NF – not directly related to the society's aims	FF - £200	<b>Activity 4-</b> FF - £400
Games	FF - £344			FF - £313.11
Gliding	FF - £480			FF - £250 car contingency
Gospel	FF - £800	FF - £200		
Harry Potter	Not funded-Committee believed it was a lot of money for not a lot of reach	Partially Funded - £30	Harry Potter	Not funded-Committee believed it was a lot of money for not a lot of reach

History	Not funded- The Committee found the event was not planned thoroughly enough for them to make a decision on funding. Once the event is planned, it is suggested you try for a special grant			
Improvised Comedy	Fully Funded- £495.20	Fully Funded -£100		
Indian	Fully Funded -£100	Not Funded- while this was a good request, due to the number of other requests, some activities could not be funded	Fully Funded-£100	
International Development	Not funded- The Committee found the application lacked a plan to secure funding elsewhere, no evidence of the costs and no realistic budget.			
Italian	Partially Funded - £150 The Committee felt that the anticipated loss was £50/event and this appeared to be a regular event	Not Funded- no evidence of attempting to get funds elsewhere and the Italian Department seems like it should/could be providing funding	Not funded- the Committee felt the event could be self-funded.	£39 for the coffee machine – Committee found there was a lack of clarity on what the equipment would be used for and why it was necessary
Kendo				Partially Funded- £208.55 All items except the go-pro and tripod. The Committee recommends you seek funds for the go-pro through the Equipment Fund.
LINKS				Not funded- the Committee found you had plenty in reserves to fund the request.
Malaysian	Not funded- the event occurred prior to the grant application deadline and retroactive support is not funded	Fully Funded - £190	Fully Funded- £150 (Also, the Committee notes that Singapore Society is also attending so you may want to see if	

			you can travel together)	
Malaysian (continued)	<b>Activity 4</b> Fully Funded-£204.50	<b>Activity 5</b> Fully Funded - £170	<b>Activity 6</b> Fully Funded - £120	
Mexican	£930.90- Fully Funded			
Nigerian	Partially Funded- £258; the Committee believes you can raise funds for this event through having a £2 ticket price	Partially Fund- £180 to be used on train and accommodation; there was no evidence to support funding the food request		
Origami				Fully Funded - £301.29
Philosophical	Not funded- The Committee felt it was not planned well enough to give enough information to make a decision and suggest you go through the special grants process	Fully funded- £370	Not funded – appears to be a regular event (funding not available for regular events); not planned well enough and could get funding elsewhere.	
Photography	Fully Fund - £8	Fully Fund- £22	Fully Fund-£500	Fully Fund-£280
Purple Radio				Fully funded - £575
Quidditch				Fully Fund-£1000
Rock	Not funded- The application reads that this is a request for funds to make a donation to another charity; the rules prohibit this	Fully Fund- £50		
Sci-fi & Fantasy	Fully fund- £104	Fully Fund-£211	NA	Fully Fund- £51.48
Sewing	Fully Fund- £409.96			
Sexpression	Fully Fund-£45	Fully Fund-£200	NA	Fully Fund-£150
SEDS	Fully Fund- £215.84	Fully Fund- £214.93	Fully Fund- £162.29	
Singapore	Not funded – this event occurred prior to the application deadline and retroactive payment is not allowed	Partial Funding - £325 for game fees – food not allowed (Also, the Committee notes that Malaysian Society is also attending so you may want to see if you can travel together)		
Speleological				Fully funded
Student Production	Not funded- The Committee found there was no evidence to support the request and the event was not planned thoroughly enough to fund	Fully Fund- £50 Film Festival Submission fee		



The Bubble	Fully Fund - £100			
Theology	Partial Fund - £275; the Committee found the maths/numbers on the application did not add up: if it cost £4/student for 28 students the awarded amount should be sufficient	Not funded – Not enough information on what the funds will be spent on	Not funded- this is a self-funding event and therefore not eligible for grant funding	
Treasure Trap	Not funded – the Committee found there was not enough evidence supporting the request	Not funded – the Committee found there was not enough evidence supporting the request	NA	Not funded – the Committee found there was not enough evidence supporting the request
United Nations	Fully Fund- £400	No funding- this appears to be a regular event not eligible for funding	Fully Fund £200	
Vegetarian and Vegan	Partially Fund- £25 documentary rental – the remainder of the request did not meet requirements for funding (food is not the focus of this particular event – so no funding for the pizza)	Fully Funded- £120	No funding- the Committee found that this event was not planned out well enough for them to determine what the money will be used for	

Table 3

Name	Requested	Awarded
Areial Arts	£77.94	£77.94
Amnesty	£348.09	£348.09
Anglo-Japanese	£205	£0.00
Anthropology	£500	£0.00
Archaeology	£900	£0.00
Art	£1,030	£630.00
Assassins	£967.66	£967.66
Astronomical	£255.60	£0.00
Athiest etc	£776.60	£536.60
Baking	£258.09	£258.09
BALADS	£1,000	£300.00
Ballet	£1,000.80	£0.00
Breakdance	£820	£580.00
Bridge	£428.99	£197.99
Calisthenics	£483.76	£483.76
Catholic	£952	£952.00
Change ringers	£677	£677.00
Cocktail	1000	£533.42
Conservation	540	£280.00
Conservative	£148.95	£68.00
Creative Writing	£217.22	£217.22
DanceSport	£1,000	£500.00
DICCU	£790	£0.00
Elec. Motorsport	£1,000	£1,000.00
Equestrian	£1,000	£800.00
Games	£657	£657.11
Gliding	£760.00	£760.00
Gospel	£1,000	£1,000.00
Harry Potter	£1,000	£130.00
History	£1,000	£0.00
Improvised Comedy	£595	£595.20
Indian	£750	£250.00
International Dev	£653	£0.00
Italian	£495.97	£189.00
Kendo	£380.07	£208.55
LINKS	£349.60	£0.00
Malaysian	£997	£834.50
Mexican	£930	£930.00
Nigerian	£1,000	£430.00
Origami	£301	£301.29
Philosophical	£905	£370.00
Photography	£800	£830.00
Purple Radio	£575	£575.00
Quidditch	£1,000	£1,000.00
Rock	£600	£50.00
Sci-fi & Fantasy	£366.48	£366.48
SEDS	£593.06	£593.06
Sewing	£409.96	£409.96

Sexpression	£395	£395.00
Singapore	£950.00	£325.00
Speleological	£1,000	£1,000.00
Student Production	£625	£50.00
The Bubble	£100	£100.00
Theology	£1,000	£275.00
Treasure Trap	£1,000	£0.00
United Nations	£800	£600.00
Vegetarian and Vegan	£355	£145.00

TO: Assembly Members

FROM: Alice Dee, President

RE: Proposed Officer Restructure

DATE: 25 November 2016

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## **Issue**

The Durham SU Officer team was designed in 2011, and has been in place for 4 years. The current portfolios are:

- President
- Academic Affairs Officer
- Development Officer
- Activities Officer
- Community Officer

It is timely to review the portfolios at regular intervals, to ensure currency and relevance. The President believes, in light of emergent priorities, that it is appropriate to revise the portfolios in advance of the 2017 elections.

## **Background**

The President, with the support of the incumbent Officers, instructed the Chief Executive to commission a consultant to objectively review the Officer team, including the leadership roles, portfolios held, and support for delivery. The report is appended to this paper (Appendix 2).

The report outlines the thorough consultation process and analysis undertaken by the consultant. It also includes a discussion on the opportunities presented by sensible reform.

## **Proposal**

The President has consulted with the incumbent Officers, the Chief Executive, and relevant stakeholders, and proposes that Assembly endorses the principles of Recommendation 1, with primary focus being on:

- Creating Undergraduate and Postgraduate Academic Officers.
- Creating an Officer covering the representative elements of student activities through development and employability. This should be the 'Opportunities Officer'.
- Transferring community relations from the Community Officer to the President and the Community Officer to become the 'Welfare and Liberation Officer'

The Appendix 1 outlines the specific changes to the standing orders.

The President has confirmed with the Chief Executive that Durham SU will be considering its support for all Officers, whatever the portfolios, and deliver a continually improving framework which will help to deliver on Officer mandates.

There are no identified legal or financial barriers to approving the Recommendation.

## **Action to be taken**

Assembly is asked to approve the President's proposal.

The President will then ask the Board of Trustees to approve the decision taken by Assembly, and instruct the Chief Executive to implement the reforms for January 2017.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Standing Order F: Sabbatical Trustees**

1. Sabbatical Trustees (hereafter "Student Officers") will hold office from 1<sup>st</sup> July in the Year of their election until 30<sup>th</sup> June of the following Year. The Board will have discretion to vary this to allow students to finish assessment for their programme, so long as the Officer is in post for no more than 12 months.
2. ~~From the third Monday in June to 30<sup>th</sup> June,~~ retiring Student Officers are required to assist in training their successors to facilitate a smooth handover period.
3. Incoming Student Officers will receive a maintenance payment on a pro rata basis for training or events attended during this period.
4. There shall be five Student Officers:
  - 4.1. President;
  - 4.2. ~~Academic Affairs Officer;~~ Undergraduate Academic Officer
  - 4.3. ~~Activities Officer;~~ Postgraduate Academic Officer
  - 4.4. ~~Community Officer;~~ Welfare and Liberation Officer
  - 4.5. ~~Development Officer;~~ Opportunities Officer

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

5. The Student Officers shall have the following duties:
  - 5.1. act as a Trustee of the Union;
  - 5.2. promote and defend the rights of members and act in the best interest of the Union at all times;
  - 5.3. actively lead campaigns across all of the Durham University campuses on a range of issues that affect the diverse range of members including development of policy;
  - 5.4. implement and uphold Union policy at all times;
  - 5.5. work together as the Student Officer Team to deliver the strategic objectives and annual officer action plans;
  - 5.6. attend, and report on their work to, Assembly and other committees when required;
  - 5.7. attend ceremonial events on behalf of the Union;
  - 5.8. attend committees as outlined in the committee membership list;
  - 5.9. ~~spend time at Queen's Campus when appropriate to lead or provide support on relevant projects;~~
  - 5.10. abide by the Seven Principles of Public Life ('Nolan Principles'); and
  - 5.11. attend staff development and training as required;
  - 5.12. collaborate with Union staff, to enhance services for members;
  - 5.13. have lead Student Officer responsibility for the development of strategies and plans relating to their portfolios;
  - 5.14. working to increase participation and to lower and/or remove barriers to participation in Union activities;
  - 5.15. working within the democratic structures to debate and discuss policies and issues and to implement policies; and
  - 5.16. fulfil any duties and obligations that arise consequentially upon signing a Sabbatical Trustee contract.
6. individual Student Officers shall also have for the following duties:

#### **President**

- 6.1. The President shall have lead Student Officer responsibility for:

- 6.1.1. increasing participation and engagement by members in the activities, democracy and governance of the Union and its subsidiary groups;
- 6.1.2. effective implementation and administration of the governance and democratic structures of the Union;
- 6.1.3. communications, including being the chief spokesperson;
- 6.1.4. liaison between the Union and the University;
- 6.1.5. liaison between the Union and the Common Rooms;
- 6.1.6. liaison between the Union and the National Union of Students (NUS);
- 6.1.7. liaison between the Union and the local community;
- 6.1.8. liaison between the Officer Team and the Durham SU Chief Executive;
- 6.1.9. leading the Durham University delegation at NUS National Conference; and
- 6.1.10. coordinating the Student Officer Team.

#### **Academic Affairs Officer**

~~6.2. The Academic Affairs Officer shall have lead Student Officer responsibility for:~~

- ~~6.2.1. academic affairs;~~
- ~~6.2.2. academic support, learning resources and related areas;~~
- ~~6.2.3. supporting and engaging with Academic Representatives;~~
- ~~6.2.4. participation by members in academic evaluation projects, including the National Student Survey and Quality Assurance Agency audits.~~

#### **Undergraduate Academic Officer**

6.2. The Undergraduate Academic Officer shall be studying at an undergraduate level and will have lead Student Officer responsibility for:

- 6.2.1. leading Durham SU's policy and campaigns on undergraduate academic matters
- 6.2.2. liaising with departments and faculties to improve undergraduate academic experience
- 6.2.3. supporting student representatives to effectively improve undergraduate academic experience
- 6.2.4. undergraduate academic support, learning resources and study facilities
- 6.2.5. undergraduate academic quality evaluation projects

#### **Postgraduate Academic Officer**

6.3. The Postgraduate Academic Officer shall be studying at a postgraduate level and will have lead Student Officer responsibility for:

- 6.3.1. leading Durham SU's policy and campaigns on postgraduate academic matters
- 6.3.2. liaising with departments and faculties to improve postgraduate academic experience
- 6.3.3. supporting student representatives to effectively improve postgraduate academic experience
- 6.3.4. postgraduate academic support, learning resources and study facilities
- 6.3.5. postgraduate academic quality evaluation projects

#### **Activities Officer**

~~6.3. The Activities Officer shall have lead Student Officer responsibility for:~~

- ~~6.3.1. — effective operation and support of Student Groups, student media, charity fundraising and volunteering;~~
- ~~6.3.2. — campaigning to secure enhanced resources for Student Groups;~~
- ~~6.3.3. — development of policy ensuring fair and equitable distribution of resources to Student Groups;~~
- ~~6.3.4. — reviewing and researching the impact of Student Groups and their activities;~~
- ~~6.3.5. — advising Student Groups on best practice and supporting them to become more successful.~~

#### **Community Officer Welfare and Liberation Officer**

6.4. The Community Welfare and Liberation Officer shall have lead Student Officer responsibility for:

- 6.4.1. leading Durham SU's policy and campaigns on welfare, including health and wellbeing, accommodation and championing equality and diversity
- ~~6.4.3. — enhancing non-academic facilities within the University;~~
- ~~6.4.4. — championing equality and diversity;~~
- 6.4.2. supporting and coordinating self-defining students to come together in Durham SU's Liberation associations and liberation and rights campaigns;
- 6.4.3 supporting student representatives to effectively improve welfare and liberation at Durham University
- ~~6.4.4. internal and external community liaison, including statutory bodies;~~
- ~~6.4.7. — championing the Union's work in the community, including charity fundraising.~~

#### **Development Officer**

~~6.5. — The Development Officer shall have lead Student Officer responsibility for:~~

- ~~6.5.1. — personal development and employability;~~
- ~~6.5.2. — training and skills initiatives and programmes to enhance members' skills and graduate qualities through participation in extra-curricular activities;~~
- ~~6.5.3. — delivery of training and skills programmes and projects in conjunction with Student Groups, student media, charity fundraising, volunteering and other student organisations;~~
- ~~6.5.4. — liaison with the University on personal development and employability.~~

#### **Opportunities Officer**

6.5 The Opportunities Officer shall have lead Student Officer responsibility for:

- 6.5.1. leading Durham SU's policy and campaigns on student opportunities and activities for all Durham students, including but not limited to Student Groups, student media, charity fundraising and volunteering.
- 6.5.2. lead Durham SU's policy and campaigns to enhance student personal development through supporting students to participate in opportunities that develop them, have fun, and make a difference to the world around them.
- 6.5.3. liaison with the University on wider student experience and development.
- 6.5.4. leading Durham SU's engagement with Experience Durham.

#### **Reporting**

7. Student Officers are required to present an annual action plan to the first Assembly meeting of the Academic Year.
8. Student Officers shall present an update on the annual action plan to every regular meeting of Assembly.

TO: Assembly  
FROM: Jo Gower, Community Officer  
RE: Nightline Transition to the Students' Union  
DATE: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016

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## **The transition of Nightline from the Durham Student Organisation (DSO) framework to the Students' Union**

### **Background**

Durham Nightline is a student-run listening service open every night during term time between 9pm-7am. The Nightline Service is run by student volunteers and is available to all Durham University students. Durham Nightline is a member of the National Association of Nightline and is accredited for following the organisation's good practice guidelines. Durham Nightline is guided by five fundamental principles:

1. **Confidentiality:** Every conversation is confidential and remains between the caller and the volunteer. No records are kept and no information is shared. Nightline respects every caller's privacy.
2. **Anonymity:** The identity of caller and volunteers are all kept anonymous. Calls are not recorded or traced and all IM conversations are deleted after the chat window is closed
3. **Non-directive/Non-advisory:** Nightline is a listening service and does not offer any advice. Nightline explores the students' situation with them and respects their right to make their own decisions
4. **Non-judgemental:** Nightline is a listening service and will not exclude or judge students for any opinions, situation, actions, or beliefs held or expressed
5. **Non-aligned:** Nightline is an independent and autonomous organisation with no religious, cultural, or political affiliations. Nightline respects everyone's beliefs and thoughts

Nightline currently operates under the DSO framework – alongside the majority of Common Rooms, Team Durham and Experience Durham student organisations. The DSO framework is a set of high level operating principles which sets out the governance framework for Durham University student organisations which are not part of the Students' Union. Nightline have enjoyed operational and funding support from Experience Durham under the DSO framework, but have now decided to opt out of the Framework and move to the Students' Union.

### **The transition of Durham Nightline to the Students' Union**

On October 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 the Durham Nightline volunteers voted to unanimously opt out of the DSO framework and move to the Students Union. After discussions with the Durham Nightline Director and the University, it has been decided that Durham Nightline will operate from and become part of the Students' Union on **16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**. From this date onwards, Durham University Nightline will become Durham Nightline and will not be subject to University policies and procedures.

#### *How will Nightline operate under the Students' Union?*

- Durham Nightline will operate within the Students' Union as 'standing' Steering Group, which will be chaired by the Director of Durham Nightline. The Steering Group will be made up of the Durham Nightline Executive, the Students' Union Community Officer and the Students' Union's Director of Engagement (who will be the dedicated staff lead and will be accountable for Durham Nightline within the Students' Union).



- Durham Nightline Steering Group will provide a link between Durham Nightline and the Students' Union's senior leadership team and Trustee Board.
- The Steering Group will provide oversight on: policy and procedures (ensuring that Durham Nightline policies and practices are not incongruent with the corporate policies of the Students' Union); recruitment processes, training, data collection; and volunteer welfare. Major changes to policies and procedures will go to the Steering Group for approval and may be referred to the Students' Union's senior leadership team if appropriate.
- Durham Nightline's Executive Committee will continue to take full responsibility for the everyday running of Nightline and will have autonomy over the day-to-day operations.
- Durham Students' Union will provide funds for the running and publicising of Nightline services and Nightline Association affiliation fees. The Durham Nightline Exec will have autonomy over the management of budgets and financial accounts. However, the Students' Union will provide support to enable Nightline to run effectively. This will include: finance training, a financial account, budgeting advice and insurance.
- Durham Nightline will be located in the Students' Union Advice Centre on Level A of Dunelm House (with access to kitchen facilities on Level A, and toilet facilities on Level B). The room will contain everything Nightline volunteers need including one phone, a computer a table and chairs and a pull out sofa bed.

**Action to be taken**

This report is for the information of Assembly members

## Committee Objectives

The following committees have met and decided their objectives for the year:

### Academic Affairs

#### Aims;

- To clarify and improve teaching quality feedback channels for undergraduate students
  - Secure feedback channel for UG students
  - Ensure early and proactive monitoring system
  - Ensure protection for teaching PGs
- To adopt policy requiring all departments to provide exam feedback
  - Create policy requiring all departments to provide exam feedback
  - Assess and survey students' needs in regards to feedback e.g. whether a dispute system should be put in place
- To clarify and harmonise welfare/ undergraduate student support policy across departments
  - Clarification: what is current policy and practice
  - Harmonise, clear and simple policy in support of UG welfare
  - Incorporate into teaching training
- To review postgraduate pay and representation
  - Research about conditions across departments
  - Identify constraining factors to best practice
  - Harmonise PG pay and representation
  - Address the imbalance of representation for PG students in relation to proportion of PGs in the student population

### MCR PresComm

#### Aims;

- To be a point of contact between all MCRs
- To collate information about how different MCRs operate, with the aim of considering best practice on running common rooms effectively (operations subcommittee)
- To work alongside the DSU officers on issues affecting postgraduate communities (representation and allocations subcommittee)
- To promote links between MCRs through Inter-MCR Formals
- To organise and host the postgraduate summer ball (social subcommittee)

## Welfare, Equality & Diversity Committee

WEDComm are working under a new structure this year, and have established four sub-groups, each of which will focus on improving aspect of welfare, equality, and/or diversity for students at Durham.

Each sub-group, each of which has a Chair, will run a campaign and develop a policy over the course of the coming academic year. The sub-groups will be able to report on their individual campaign and policy objectives by next Assembly, but for now have developed some possible ideas:

### **Mental Health and Welfare sub-group:**

- Mental health first aid workshops & policy
- Establishing a dialogue around mental health to decrease stigma
- Addressing student concerns about accessibility of counselling and academic help
- Look after your Mate campaign

### **Disability and Accessibility sub-group:**

#### **Potential Campaigns:**

- 'Let's talk about it' – language surrounding disability and starting the conversation
- Support for student carers

#### **Potential Policies:**

- Accessibility for society events and socials
- Reduction in costs for medical notes
- Ring-fencing of estate development budget to ensure disability access is not compromised for cost reasons

#### **Potential Goals:**

- Students should be aware of what support is available to them
- Enable more students to access a full university experience

### **Sex and Consent sub-group:**

#### **Potential Campaigns:**

- Get tested
- Involvement in next term's sexual violence campaign

#### **Potential Policies:**

- Bar staff to receive active bystander intervention training
- Train welfare officers to deliver active bystander intervention training

#### **Potential Goals:**

- Promote ABI training for all freshers, plus bar staff and sports & socs captains
- Make a push for awareness of how to get tested and how they should get tested, including myth busting

### **Minority Representation sub-group:**

#### **Potential Campaigns:**

- Gender awareness, including gender neutral toilets
- Training for welfare officers on LGBT+, PoC, and disability inclusion and awareness

#### **Potential Policies:**

- Society Inclusion pledge
- Defining a safe-space

**Potential Goals:**

- Educating the wider student population through college welfare officers on minority representation

WEDComm as a whole additionally hopes to do a welfare-wide drug awareness campaign.

**JCR PresComm**

JCR PresComm have divided into three subgroups this year to work on the following:

- **College sport** – focussing on making sure that College Sport is not overlooked in the new MC development as part of the masterplan, aiming to ensure that College Sport remains accessible and it not marginalised in favour of Team Durham activities. The group will also work towards much-needed improvements for college boathouses.
- **Minority Report** – aiming to understand the provision of services available to minorities within JCRs and Durham Students' Union, with the view to increase the engagement and involvement of minority groups within the University community.
- **Strategic plan** – the strategic plan will result in a report being produced for the end of the year, with the aim to provide continuity between Presidents' Committees. This will be achieved by forming a plan for the coming years which successive Presidents can use to help them form their year's objectives efficiently.

As well as working together on subgroup aims, individual members of the group volunteer to sit on various groups with University staff. Currently representatives sit on the Post Offer Visit Day working group, Sexual Violence and Misconduct Operations Group, and working groups which are focussed on college catering, the Queen's Campus move and improving consultation between the University and its students.

**DUCK****Objectives 16/17:**

1. To raise a total of at least £250,000 throughout the year, at least £20,000 of which we aim to raise for the Local Charities Fund.
2. To improve the image of DUCK amongst both student and the local communities. On a student level, we hope to remodel DUCK's branding, bringing a fresher, more respectable, and professional image of DUCK into the student community. Within the local community we hope to raise awareness of what DUCK stands for and the impact that it has on the local community. We will achieve this by opening up more events to the local community and holding events such as rag raids in Durham City in order to reach out to the non-student body.
3. To hold a greater focus on, and raise greater awareness of, the impact that DUCK has had and will continue to have in the local community. We will publish impact reports received from charities we have supported in the past in order to accomplish this.
4. To secure central DUCK sponsorship for, at the latest, in the coming academic year (17/18) and sponsorship for specific events this year. We are currently working on a brochure to distribute to potential sponsors outlining a tiered system of sponsorship which we hope to have finalised by Christmas and ready to distribute next term.