

**Durham Students' Union
Assembly Agenda**

Thursday, 27 October 2016– 19:00, Elvet Riverside 201

Time	Subject	Who	Paper
19:00-19:01	A. Welcome	President	
19:01-19:03	B. Apologies for absence and Conflicts of interest	President	
19:03-19:05	C. Minutes of the meeting on 16 June 2016 including ratification of old business	President	UA/1516/045
Routine Business			
19:05-19:15	D. Election of Chair	President	UA/1617/002
19:15-19:20	E. Election of Vice Chair	Chair	
19:20-19:25	F. Confirmation of Appointment of PG Rep on Senate	Academic Affairs Officer	UA/1617/003
19:25-19:45	G. Sharing of Officer Objectives/ Union Strategy	Student Officers	UA/1617/004
Items for Discussion			
19:45-19:55	H. New Societies Ratification	Activities Officer	UA/1617/005
19:55-20:05	I. Ratification, People of Colour Association	Community Officer	UA/1617/006
20:05-20:15	J. Letter of Concern Regarding Champagne Society	Student Officers	UA/1617/007
20:15-20:25	K. Request from Hong Kong Society to De-ratify DUHKPASS	Activities Officer	UA/1617/008
20:25-20:40	L. Election of Assembly/ Committee Membership	Chair	UA/1617/009
Any Other Business			
20:40-20:55	M. Questions to Officers		
For Your Information			

Next meeting will be 6 December 2016, CG93 (Scarborough lecture theatre, Chemistry department)
Agenda closes (so papers must be in) 25 November 2016 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 at least 2 days in advance to make arrangements.

TO: Assembly

FROM: Alice Dee, President

RE: Approval of Minutes and Ratification of actions taken at the
16 June 2016 Assembly

With this agenda item you must do two things: approve the minutes from the 16 June Assembly and ratify the actions taken at that same meeting.

Minutes

As always, you may not vote to accept the minutes if you were not present at the meeting.

Ratification of Actions

At the 16 June 2016 Assembly those present voted to act on the ratification of applicant societies and to adopt two policies. As the meeting was inquorate, these actions must be ratified at this meeting. The business needing to be ratified by you include:

16 June Agenda Item	Vote
Ratification of: Women in Science, Technology & Engineering Water of Life Society Tea Society Israel Forum Arab Society	For: 19 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Ratification of North Korea Society (on the condition they change their name and policy on hosting trips to North Korea)	For: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 1
Reject ratification of Sewing and Needlecraft Society	For: 19 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Reject the ratification of Novea Terra	For: 0 Against: 12 Abstain: 7
Reject the ratification of Students for Britain	For: 17 Against: 1 Abstain: 1
Adoption of Sexual Violence Policy	For: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0
Adoption of Equality & Diversity Policy	For: 18 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

Each item was fully discussed at the 16 June Assembly so discussion here is not appropriate. You must vote to accept the inquorate Assembly's actions. A 'yes' vote means you accept the actions taken by the 16 June Assembly; a 'no' vote means you do not accept those actions.

Durham Students' Union Assembly Minutes

Date: 16 June 2016

Time: 19:00

Location: Kingsgate, Dunelm House

Attendance

Members present	18	Members absent	17
Members who sent apologies	7	Members not yet elected	4

Chair: Nick Rudd

The following staff members were in attendance:

Dianne Sharp (Interim Chief Executive), Kirsten Lightfoot (Director of Learning), Christine Stretesky (Governance Support Manager), Georgi Lambert (Marketing Manager), Mike Potter (Engagement Facilitator), Laura Wilkinson (Executive Assistant)

Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and advised that as the meeting was not quorate, members would still be voting but decisions would have to be ratified at the next assembly meeting. He announced that in light of this afternoon's attack on MP Jo Cox and the subsequent suspension of the EU Campaigns, whilst we will formally report the result of our EU Referendum, we will not hold any further debate around the campaign or issues. Millie will present an update on the recent campaigns/elections.

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.

Notification of AOB

The Chair asked for notification of any other business before the meeting began. Summer Events was added to the agenda.

Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising from the minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Election Round-up

MT updated assembly members that RefRef received 2336 votes and students voted that the Union should support the EU remain campaign. Student trustee elections had 1496 votes, with the elected trustees being David Evans, Holly Foxon, Daniel Fox and Charles Walker. The NUS referendum had 2159 votes and students chose to stay affiliated to NUS.

Awards Update

The Activities Officer updated on the Awards Evening and informed assembly members that the following people had been awarded Honorary Life Membership:

Nick Rudd
Millie Tanner
Dianne Sharp
Daniel Morgan-Thomas
Daniel Cain-Reed

Thom Addinall-Biddulph
Anna Kenton

Officer Updates

The President updated Assembly members on her priority plan. She also updated members that the CEO interviews would be taking place next week, stating that she would update members once a candidate was appointed.

The Academic Affairs Officer updated Assembly on his priority plan including an update on PG study space, there would be an area set up in the Union for this starting from next academic year.

The Activities Officer updated Assembly members on her priority plan, informing them that the culture festival is scheduled for 18 June 11:00-16:00, and encouraged people to spread the word.

The Development Officer updated members on his priority plan, advising that he has been delivered training this week to common rooms and societies.

Sub-committee updates

Societies Committee

The Committee Chair gave an update on the committees' priority plan.

New Society Ratification

The chair of societies committee asked members to ratify the following societies:

Women in Science, Technology & Engineering

'Water of Life' Society

Tea Society

Israel Forum

Arab Society

For: 19
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

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

There was some discussion regarding the name and priorities of the **North Korea Society**. Assembly members voted to ratify the society, on the condition they amend their name, and change the policy on supporting trips to North Korea.

For: 18
Against: 0
Abstain: 1

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

The chair of societies committee asked members to ratify the decision to **reject** the following society.

Sewing and Needlecraft Society

For: 19
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

The Assembly voted **for** the rejecting of the ratification of the above listed society.

The chair of societies committee asked members to ratify the decision to **reject** the following society. There was some discussion amongst members, as the reason for rejecting this society was that it was too similar to Made in America. However, since the decision Made in America have not re-registered and therefore no longer exist.

Novae Terra

For: 0
Against: 12
Abstain: 7

The Assembly voted **against** the rejection of the ratification of the above listed society.

The chair of societies committee asked members to ratify the decision to **reject** the following society. There was some discussion amongst members as to whether the society was being rejected as it has no long term aims, or because it goes against Union policy.

Students for Britain

For: 17
Against: 1
Abstain: 1

The Assembly voted **against** the ratification of rejecting the above listed society.

ALL OF THE ABOVE WILL NEED TO BE RATIFIED AT THE NEXT ASSEMBLY DUE TO THIS MEETING NOT BEING QUORATE.

Motion: Sexual Violence Policy

The Development Officer and a representative from Welfare, Equality & Diversity Committee presented the proposed policy to assembly members.

For: 18
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

The Assembly voted **for** the ratification of the motion.

Motion: Equality & Diversity Policy

The President presented the proposed policy to assembly members.

For: 18
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

The Assembly voted **for** the ratification of the motion.

THE ABOVE MOTIONS WILL NEED TO BE RATIFIED AT THE NEXT ASSEMBLY DUE TO THIS MEETING NOT BEING QUORATE.

Motion: Amendments to Standing Orders

The President presented the document, and stated that rather than voting on this today, she would take away comments and suggestions and work on finalising it for the next meeting. A member of

assembly suggested it be ratified via email within the next two weeks and all members agreed on this. All members were asked to provide comments via email or the Google form as soon as possible.

Any Other Business

Summer Events

It was suggested that there should be more events held over the summer months for those postgraduate and international students that are still in Durham, a find a housemate event would be particularly useful. MT advised that the Union is already in the process of planning events and information would be sent out soon. The Chair thanked the student for raising the issue.

Questions to Officers

Kara: When booking rooms at the University that are wheelchair accessible, often you are then given rooms that are not. Is there something that can be done about this?

KS said that she realised it was an on-going problem, and that societies committee had been working on it this year. HD offered to forward the list that has been created to members.

The Chair thanked the President and Officers for doing an excellent job throughout the year.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 20:40

#	Nicholas Rudd	Chair	
1	Millie Tanner	President	
2	Kara-Jane Senior	Activities	
3	Ben Frost	Academic Affairs	
4	Jake Hooker	Development	
5	Esther Green	Community	
6	Yulia Larionova	ISA	
7	Joanna Gower	LGBT+a	
8	Amelia Mcloughlan	SwDA	
9	Helen Wilson	Mature Students Association	
10	Sara Gracey	Academic	
11	Zack Hodari	Active	
12	Young Ah Kim	Arts	
13	Helen Chamberlain	Culture & Faith	
14	Hazel Dixon	Hobbies & Games	
15	VACANT	Music	
16	Thomas Reeves	Outdoor	
17	Josephine Semple	Political and Causes	
18	Anna Kenton	DUCK Exec	
19	Ollie Tallis	Media Committee	
20	Jennie Dzielgel	Arts and Humanities UG	
21	Daniel Morgan-Thomas	Arts and Humanities PGT	
22	VACANT	Arts and Humanities PGR	
23	Matthew Collins	Science UG	
24	VACANT	Science PGT	
25	Thomas Jones	Science PGR	
26	Guilia Montifere	Social Science and Health UG	
27	Wenbo Zhang	Social Science and Health PGT	
28	VACANT	Social Science and Health PGR	
29	Courtney Caton	JCR Pres Comm	
30	Richard Bruce	MCR Pres Comm	
31	Mitchell Langcaster-James	St. Cuthberts	
32	Thomas Addinal-Biddulph	Ustinov	
33	Will Waters	St John's	
34	Elected in final term	Van Mildert	
35	Tom Harwood	St Mary's	
36	Harriet Barsham	St. Chad's	
37	Nicola Tweedy	Grey	
38	Meghan Hosch	Hatfield	
39	Kennedy Round	John Snow	
40	Luke Hollander	St Aidan's	
41	Chris Waters	Collingwood	
42	Kieran Laurie	St Hild & St Bede	
43	Laura Doherty	University College	
44	James Creer	Stephenson	
45	Stella Elena Alexandrova	Trevelyan	
46		Josephine Butler	
Attended		Sent Apologies	No Attendance or Apologies
			Not in post

TO: Assembly
FROM: Alice Dee, President
RE: Election of Chair

We have three candidates for Chair. Below are their names and profiles:

Laura Tidd

This is my second year as Vice Chair of Aidans JCR. I'm very keen to get more involved in assembly, and I think the best way for me to do that would be to stand as chair - to help retain impartiality and democracy. I'm very passionate about the union but don't currently hold any positions that require me to get involved, so I feel now is a good time for me to apply to be chair.

Andy Corkhill

I am a second year PhD student who has just finished as MCR President, JCR Vice President, and as a charity trustee at St John's - all roles which required the in depth knowledge of rules and constitutions, as well as affording me the opportunity to chair meetings of different sizes.

James Cochran

I am very dedicated to assembly, and having sat on it last year as cuths su rep would leave to have a part in its governance this year. #lashembly #giveemthed #beeroes

Each candidate will have 60 seconds to provide an overview of why they will make a good chair. After, you will have a couple of minutes to ask questions. Voting will be by paper ballot: as always, RON (Re-open nominations) will appear on the ballot. The ballots will be counted on the night with the successful candidate taking over as Chair once they are counted.

TO: Assembly
FROM: Lisa Whiting, Academic Affairs Officer
RE: Appointment Hannah Britt as the Postgraduate Representative for Senate

You are asked to confirm the appointment of Hannah Britt as the Post Graduate Representative for Senate.

Background

Assembly has the power as outlined in 94.6 of the Articles of Associations to “appoint student representatives, other than ex officio representatives, to University committees as and when required.” There are three student representatives on Senate and these are the Students’ Union President, the Academic Affairs Officer and one other student representative, one of which must be a postgraduate.

Hannah Britt is currently the Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative for Science. The interview panel for the PGR Faculty Rep position believed Hannah to be an outstanding candidate who demonstrated a broad awareness of postgraduate issues. Further, she is currently reviewing postgraduate representation within her Faculty and has been an undergraduate course representative. It is my recommendation that Hannah be appointed as PG rep on Senate.

Action to be taken

To formalise the appointment of Hannah, you will need to vote. A vote ‘yes’ means that you approve Hannah’s appointment; a vote ‘no’ means you reject Hannah’s appointment.

TO: Assembly

FROM: Officer Team

RE: Officer Objectives and Union Strategy

Elected Officers are accountable to Assembly for the delivery of their mandate. Assembly is the principal way that students hold their elected representatives to account against stated priorities. Officers share progress on achieving their priorities with Assembly, and for information with the Durham SU Trustee Board.

This paper outlines the Officer Priorities for delivery in the 2016/2017 academic year. Assembly is asked to:

- Comment on the strategic direction of the Officer Priorities.
- Offer thoughts on how the Officers can usefully share their progress against the priorities with Assembly, and with students.
- Volunteer, if any members are excited and want to be part of working to achieve the Officer Priorities.

President

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Academic Affairs Officer

1. I will fix the Course Rep system so students' academic interests are represented, because students should be at the centre of academic life at Durham and that means student representatives who are supported and empowered to make changes
2. I will reform academic representation of post graduates because currently there are huge inconsistencies across the university in how postgraduates are listened to, and a change is needed to give students a central voice in the discussions
3. I will strengthen and fight for the rights of post-graduate research students because PhD students are in a sense both staff and students, often fall between the gap and end up vulnerable in difficult situations. I will work for better training, increased support from supervisors and fairer pay conditions

Development Officer

1. I will give students the chance to explore their career options for life after university, because in a competitive job market, a good degree is no longer enough and students need to better their understanding and gain more experience before the next stage of life.
2. I will ensure Durham SU supports DUCK so they can be the best they can be, because they raise loads of money for many great causes and we could help them do even more
3. I will work with the Colleges to make the university better for everyone, because a strong, productive and constructive relationship between the colleges and the SU is in the best interest of all students

Activities Officer

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Community Officer

1. I will improve representation for underrepresented students, within the Union, University, and nationally because all students deserve to be represented to ensure the best possible student experience for all.
2. I will change attitudes about sexual violence and harassment because all students have the right to live without fear of sexual violence and harassment.
3. I will improve the experience of students with disabilities because students with disabilities are entitled to as good a university experience as anyone else.

Durham SU Strategy

Assembly is also asked to note that Durham SU will be creating a new 3 year plan in the 2016/2017 year, for delivery from 2017 to 2020. Assembly is a key stakeholder in the development of this plan; the President has been very clear with the Chief Executive that, although the student-led Trustee Board will ultimately sign off the strategic plan, Assembly should also support the final proposal.

A base of research in Spring 2015 has produced indicative themes around which to base actions for this year, and upon which to develop a strategy. Further organisational, institutional and sector developments, however would suggest that it is wise to reflect further on our strategic positioning in the 2016/2017 year before committing to future plans. The Chief Executive will use this research, and further contextual analysis, to propose a strategy in June 2017.

For Assembly's information, the Chief Executive will propose the following strategic priorities for Durham SU to the student-led Board on 28 October 2017. The strategic priorities are presented

under the themes identified in the 2015 research: Improving Governance, Facilities, Active Citizenship, and Employability and Skills.

Improving Governance

1. Durham SU will develop a policy cycle and framework, so students can determine and progress their priorities.
 - *We'll align our planning processes – financial, academic, electoral, planning and objective setting – in the presentation of a 2020 Strategy and a 2017/2018 Annual Plan, presented to Board on June 2017.*
2. Durham SU will contribute meaningfully to national policy development and campaign activity.
 - *We'll submit and pass policy important to Durham SU at NUS National Conference 2017, and work with associations to submit policy to International, LGBT+ and Disabled Students Conferences.*
3. Durham SU will understand and refine our support for student groups.
 - *We'll review our finance procedures, resourcing, development framework, and regulations for student groups; Societies Forum will sign off on our support strategy, and Societies Committee will approve and monitor the action plan in Easter Term 2017.*

Facilities

1. Durham SU's customers will agree that our services are friendly, accessible, and easy to use.
 - *We'll develop one-stop/single-source access to key services, and ensure that 75% of customers agree that we're friendly, accessible, and easy to use.*
2. Durham SU's services will be sustainable, with robust business and development plans.
 - *We'll write business cases for all existing and new services, ensuring that they receive appropriate investment and scrutiny; we'll achieve all targets and keep to budget.*
3. Durham SU will work with stakeholders across campus to open up our business to the wider community.
 - *We'll build productive relationships with Common Rooms and College Bursars that support our mutual growth. We'll also consider a full-year commercial plan, and seek new business partners.*

Active Citizenship

1. Durham SU will scope and define 'active citizenship'.
 - *We'll work with students, and broader civic society, to define student active citizenship; Assembly will approve the vision in our strategy.*
2. Durham SU will develop a positive and productive relationship with Student Community Action and DUCK.
 - *We'll propose a joint plan of work with our partners, and flagship student group, which will progress our vision of active citizenship.*
3. Durham SU will develop a model for co-ordinated student group-led social change activity.
 - *We'll support all of our student groups to contribute to our vision of active citizenship in focussed development interviews, and identify opportunities to progress our vision together.*

Employability and Skills

1. Durham SU will have an employability policy which clearly defines our guiding principles and priorities for student career and personal development.
 - *Assembly will approve a policy by May 2017 which guides our work in ensuring that Durham students have a comprehensive, sector leading, career and personal development experience.*
2. Durham SU will have a robust framework to support student volunteers' learning and skills development.
 - *HR Committee will consider a comprehensive volunteer strategy which will enable volunteers to deliver their role well, develop themselves, and support Durham SU to delivery its 2020 Strategy.*
3. Durham SU's leadership development programme will be sustainable in the medium term.
 - *HR Committee and Audit and Risk Committee will support funding and quality arrangements for the leadership development programme to continue into 2017/2018 and beyond.*

TO: Assembly

FROM: Kara-Jane Senior, Activities Officer

RE: Ratification of New Societies

The Union has received several applications for new societies. As the Societies Committee has just been recently constituted, I have reviewed the applications and make the following recommendations. The recommendations are based on the applications (following) and feedback received from existing student groups.

Name of new society	Recommendation	Reason
Bureaucracy	Ratify	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies.
Durham for Refugees	Ratify	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies.
Chemistry	Ratify	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Similar society previously existed (original society has been inactive for about a year).
Russian Speaking	Ratify	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Similar society previously existed.
Mock Trial	Ratify	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Previously existed (failed to re-register).
Korea	Ratify	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies.
Guitar Hero and Rock Band	Ratify	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies.
Krav Maga	Ratify	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Similar society previously existed (failed to re-register).
Afro-Caribbean	Ratify	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or

			any Union policies. Similar society previously existed several years ago.
Vietnamese	Ratify		Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Previously existed (failed to re-register).
Taiwan	Ratify		Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Previously existed (failed to re-register).
Hellenic	Ratify		Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Similar society previously existed (failed to re-register).
Cypriot	Ratify		Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Similar society previously existed (failed to re-register).
Lego	Ratify		Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Similar society previously existed (failed to re-register).
Scandinavian	Ratify		Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Similar society previously existed.
Nichiren Buddhism	Ratify		Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies.
Werewolf	Ratify		Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies.
Durham Students for Ashinaga	Ratify	Have requested to have £0 membership fee	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies.
Chinese Students and Scholars Association	Ratify	Have requested to have £0 membership fee	Aims do not conflict with any registered groups or any Union policies. Previously existed (failed to re-register).
The Tangent	Reject		The Bubble says they are too similar to their aims.

As you will read, there are two groups requesting authorisation to charge no membership fee. For purposes of voting, we will need to first vote whether the applicant society should be ratified and second, whether Durham Students for Ashinaga and Chinese Students and Scholars Association should be exempted from the regulation requiring membership fees to be set at a minimum of £1.

Society name	Description	Aims	Membership fee	Notes for Assembly
Bureaucracy	Bureaucracy Society was founded by a group of four people in December 2015, with the main aim of getting new members in order to expand our idealised hierarchy. Six months later, the society is successfully operating with approximately 15 official members from a variety of colleges and year groups, a figure that we are extremely proud of and aspire to increase. We are a satirical representation of bureaucracy, complete with meetings, complex hierarchical rules and many, many forms.	Gain enough members and produce a sufficiently complex bureaucracy such that the society must be devoted entirely to maintaining the system and thereby achieving nothing else. Members will develop their communication skills, teamwork, analytical skills and patience, amongst others. Members will enjoy the society.	£3.00	The group were asked about the sustainability of the group, by request of Societies Committee: "There is a great deal of evidence pointing to our future longevity. We have lasted this long – successfully operated for 6 months; Have members from multiple colleges and multiple year groups; We have spoken to other people who seem particularly interested in the society, and it captures the imagination of many; Lots of plans for the future in order to keep excitement within the society; Setting mid-term goals as a society to keep us moving; Goal to have members in all colleges; Expanding publicity through recruitment drives and competitions, as well as discussions with the university newspaper and the Tab; Making and strengthening relationships between different societies to liaise with them; Performing research projects within the society (e.g. the ideal productivity-inducing types of biscuits, and other snacks)."
Durham for Refugees	We're a group of Students at Durham University working to raise funds and awareness to	To raise funds and awareness for those affected by the refugee	£1.00	

	aid those affected by the global refugee crisis	crisis.		
Chinese Students and Scholars Association	<p>The Durham Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) is one of the Subsidiary Associations of CSSA-UK which has existed for more than 30 years. It is a non-political, nonreligious, and non-profit organization. It organizes, sponsors, and supports various social and cultural activities for the 2,000 Chinese students and scholars in Durham and Queen's Campus. We contact with Chinese Embassy and aim to provide any help for Durham Chinese students.</p> <p>Every year we help hundreds of Chinese students on life and study, hold welcome parties for freshers, give guidance on how to adapt in British university life, hold career-seeking workshops, charity balls, Asian Festival, Chinese New Year Concert and etc.</p> <p>We also welcome students</p>	<p>Every year we help hundreds of Chinese students on life and study, hold welcome parties for freshers, give guidance on how to adapt in British university life, hold career-seeking workshops, charity balls, Asian Festival, Chinese New Year Concert and etc. We have 6 departments within the association to engage Chinese students on every aspects including study, life, career, entertainment, communication and charities.</p> <p>We also welcome students from other countries who enjoy Chinese culture and language to join! We have FREE Mandarin and Cantonese lessons, traditional Chinese parties during Spring</p>	<p>We don't want to charge, because we are not for profitability. from this year that we are not going to earn from events, all money for holding the events will be provided by Chinese Embassy. But if its necessary then £1 is fine.</p>	Societies must charge a minimum membership of £1 (set by Assembly).

	<p>from other countries who enjoy Chinese culture and language to join! We have FREE Mandarin and Cantonese lessons, traditional Chinese parties during Spring Festivals, etc.</p>	<p>Festivals, etc. All of them are free of charge and we also provide free Chinese snacks for our students throughout those events from time to time!</p> <p>Here I need to clarify that we are now an existing society and because we fail to do the re-registration due to some handover issues, we have to register as a new group again. Apologise for any inconveniences. But because we are the only official Chinese student and scholars group and we contact with Chinese Embassy for every issues, pls could you help me with a stall at freshers fair because we need to let Chinese freshers know that we are preparing to help during the following time they will be in Durham.</p>		
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Chemistry	<p>We are the Chemistry Society! We hope to promote our passion for all things Chemical to the students and staff of Durham University - whether you study Chemistry or not - through regular academic talks, discussions and social events. We hope to be a source of information on the course, for anything from module choice to lab reports, to other students, and a way to discuss Chemistry away from the confines of the lecture theatre. Having just been set up again over the summer, we have a lot planned for the year to come - so join the Facebook group and follow us on Twitter to stay in touch!</p>	<p>(Taken from the Draft Constitution Document, version 1 July 2016) a. ChemSoc shall promote and encourage an interest in Chemistry amongst all students, staff and affiliates of Durham University. b. ChemSoc aims to give Chemistry students the chance to ask current students in subsequent year groups questions about studying Chemistry in an informal setting. c. Within the first year of forming, ChemSoc aims for affiliation with the Royal Society of Chemistry and sponsorship by Teach First. d. Within the first year of forming, ChemSoc aims to have membership numbers of at least 150, including 25 % of the 2016-17 Freshers Intake.</p>	<p>£4.00 per year, £10.00 life membership.</p>	
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Russian Speaking	<p>The DURSS is a society full of social and cultural events that brings together Russian speaking students from wherever they come from. It is an inclusive society that welcomes all those interested, not only Russian language speakers. We are a new society and are opened to new ideas and suggestions with regards to possible events.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The society aims to bring together Russian speaking students. 2. Since, the majority of Russian speakers are international students and have come from very far, they should be able to feel like at home in Durham. Hence, the society aims to make new-coming and current Russian speakers adapt to the foreign environment and find friends from Russian speaking world. 3. Society aims to promote Russian culture in the form of cultural events. 4. Society aims to represent a Russian speaking student minority in Durham. 	<p>2016/2017 membership: the minimum membership charge of £1.</p>	
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Mock Trial	<p>From murder to defamation, students will dissect a vast array of cases and bring them to life in a simulated mock trial by taking on the role of a witness/barrister/judge/court reporter and so many others. By doing so, students will not only gain invaluable insight into the legal system and court room procedures but develop key transferable skills that can be applied to any profession. We will be holding numerous activities from workshops led by current barristers on how to strengthen advocacy skills to internal/external competitions which will provide the perfect platform to showcase those skills - and of course, socials!</p>	<p>Mock Trial Society aims to give a platform for students to express themselves in a variety of different ways, be it through drama as a witness, or public speaking as a barrister. These skills will be developed and strengthened in the training sessions, to be put to use when competing against other universities. At Mock Trial we also value team work and support for one another, which we will always aim to do in order to promote self confidence in all our members.</p>	<p>£8 per year £10 for life</p>	
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Poker	<p>Durham Poker Society runs weekly no limit Texas Hold'em tournaments. Buy-ins are £4, with an option to re-buy or add-on available. Prizes will usually be given to up to 8th place, with first often winning in excess of £50! These are casual events and are not at all serious: it doesn't matter what standard you are - the exec are willing to teach beginners the rules! We also have a points system in which the top 8 players each week will gain points depending on their position. Appearance points are also given so do try to come along as much as possible! At the end of the year the top 2 players in the points table qualify for free entry to a poker tournament in Newcastle! The society also runs termly social events for a whole day of poker including multiple buy-ins, knock-out prizes and double leaderboard points. These include evening meals and free drinks!</p>	<p>The society aims to provide a social environment for Durham University students who are interested in poker (at any level), or want to learn to play or find out what the game is about, to play the game together at weekly sessions, to meet new friends, and socialise.</p> <p>Please note that this society already exists and has existed for several years. At the end of the last academic year (July 2016), the society exec did not reregister the society in time or host an AGM to hand over their roles and consequently we are having difficulty setting up the society again. We would like to keep the society more or less the same as it has been in previous years as this has worked well and has been very well received among many</p>	<p>The society will charge £3 for one year membership, and £5 for life membership. (These are the same figures used during the last few years of the society)</p>	
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		<p>Durham students (last year there were more than thirty regular members who attended every single week and many more who attended frequently), so if it is at all possible to still reregister or to set up the society as it was so we can resume without disruption, then we would be very grateful for your assistance with that. We are sorry for this inconvenience but there is nothing else we can do, due to the way things have been left by the previous exec. We would like to thank the SU officers for their help with this matter thus far and for pointing us to this form, and we would deeply appreciate any further assistance or guidance you can give us.</p>		
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Korea	<p>Durham University Korea Society is borne of collective aims of KOREAN students and NON-KOREAN students who are keen to know about Korean Culture in Durham University, to promote a number of objectives designed to widen the understanding of the Korean culture within the University.</p>	<p>The Society's primary aim is to allow its members to experience the unique Korean culture and its other valuable social aspects, with the ulterior objective to provide opportunities for its members to socialise as they integrate into the wider Durham Community. At the heart of the Societal Aim lies our unique activities that are Cultural, Academic, Careers and Social. Coupled with these activities is our Korean facet, which forms the bedrock and essence of the Society. Membership is offered to all students and staff members in Durham.</p>	<p>Life membership for £ 10 and A year membership for £ 5</p>	
Guitar Hero and Rock Band	<p>Guitar hero and Rock Band Society is a society where fans of the classic video game series can get together and rock out. Whether you want to play for fun or competitively all are welcome!</p>	<p>While there already exists a Games society at Durham University, I feel the vastness and rarity of the games within Guitar Hero & Rock Band is more than sufficient for these to deserve their</p>	<p>1 year membership is £2. Life membership is £5.</p>	

		<p>own seperate society.</p> <p>Aim: To meet and play Guitar Hero/ Rock Band with other students (and most importantly) have fun doing so!</p>		
Krav Maga	<p>Krav Maga, Hebrew for 'Contact Combat,' is a self-defence system developed for the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) that comprises techniques inspired from various martial arts, including Boxing, Wrestling, Judo, and Aikido. It is taught to Militaries, Law Enforcement personnel, Corporate Security Companies, and many others all over the world. Krav Maga does not require any prior martial arts experience or training, and is suitable for everyone.</p> <p>If you choose to join, you will be taught a no frills, reality-based self defence system. It is efficient. It is effective. It will teach you everything necessary to protect yourself and your loved ones. Our</p>	<p>We aim to equip students with the ability to protect themselves and their loved ones through safe but realistic training, as well as the skills required to successfully defuse tension and deescalate conflicts. Our guiding principles are as follows:</p> <p>Two people enter, two people leave - We aim for training to be conducted in a safe manner, without the occurrence of any major safety incidents.</p> <p>Violence as a last resort - We aim to impart the message that deescalation and the avoidance of conflict should always be the first priority.</p>	<p>£5 per drop-in sessions, £45 per block booking of 10 sessions/1 term, Additional (optional) fees for the purchase of uniforms.</p>	

	<p>Society will provide you with professional instruction from highly trained and accredited instructors from Krav Maga Global (KMG), and a strong community of friends.</p> <p>We will organise one training session per week in the Hild Gym, with another for sparring and physical training. You will be able to learn a new skill, and stay fit too!</p>	<p>You might not have started it, but you will end it - Should deterrence and deescalation fail, we intend for our students to have the ability to neutralise any threat confronting them or their loved ones, whilst still demonstrating as much restraint as possible.</p>		
Afro-Caribbean	<p>The African and Caribbean Society (ACS) encourages all students to learn about, experience and celebrate the joys of African and Caribbean culture in a warm and friendly environment. We aim to provide a platform for showcasing and celebrating African and Caribbean culture within our diverse community, as well as providing events for our members that cater for their cultural, social, educational and professional requirements.</p>	<p>We aim to provide those of African and Caribbean heritage a chance to meet people of the same backgrounds whilst creating a platform for our members to immerse themselves in African Caribbean history and culture. We also hope to provide career initiatives, networking events where we invite past Durham students and institutions, such as Rare Recruitment, to help our</p>	£10 yearly membership	

		members become the well-rounded individuals needed in the corporate, and non-corporate, world.		
Vietnamese	<p>We are a strong and supportive organisation where the majority of members are Vietnamese. Until now, this society has been running for several years along with many other societies in Durham. However, last year we missed the deadline for re-registering as a society for the new academic year 2016-2017. Therefore, we are now submitting this application to once again establish our society under Durham SU.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting Vietnamese culture to the university student body. 2. A place for Vietnamese students at the university to bond, support each other and share experiences. 3. Connecting with other Vietnamese students' associations to build a well-connected Vietnamese community in the UK. 	£1	

Durham Students for Ashinaga	<p>We are a group of Durham students working to promote Ashinaga's work in providing educational, financial and emotional support to orphaned students worldwide. Ashinaga is a Japanese non-profit organisation that focuses on providing education and emotional support to children who have experienced the loss of one or both parents. Since its inception over 45 years ago, Ashinaga has raised over \$1 billion USD and enabled over 95,000 students to complete higher education across the world. Since 2000, Ashinaga has expanded beyond Japan and now supports a global community of disadvantaged young people. A center for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS was established in Nansana, Uganda in 2001. In 2012 the Ashinaga Africa Initiative was implemented to send ambitious orphaned students from 49 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa to the world's leading academic institutions.</p>	<p>1. organise debates, games, social gatherings and campaign initiatives related to charity mechanisms, education development or the cultures of Japan and Sub-Saharan states; 2. publish internship programmes and volunteering opportunities by Ashinaga to students throughout the year 3. facilitate communication between Ashinaga's supported scholars and students in Durham to exchange the living and studying experience in different regions of the world 4. build relations with Ashinaga chapters from other universities</p>	<p>We would like to ask Assembly about opportunities to cancel the compulsory minimum fee, given the charitable nature of Ashinaga and the nature of the work they do internationally. Our society would like to reach students without them having to use bank accounts, getting in contact with anyone who is interested in helping our cause.</p>	<p>Currently societies must charge a minimum membership fee of £1 (set by Assembly)</p>
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Taiwan	The Taiwan Society consist of a major group of friendly and passionated postgraduate and PHD students.We are warmly welcome all students to join our this big family.	Taiwan is famous for its unique culture, especially the night market. Each night market has its own traditions and characteristics.We would like to provide a chance for everyone to try out these snacks, and we believe that people will be able to learn about different cultures from different areas.	£1	
Hellenic	The 'Durham University Hellenic Society' aims to bring together any student interested in celebrating and learning more about Greek culture. All are welcome!	The purpose of the society would be to represent the interests of Hellenic students on campus, as well as provide a vehicle through which the may meet other Greek students. Additionally, it could serve as a medium through which students, unacquainted with modern Greek culture, would be able to experience it on campus.	£1	

Cypriot	<p>We are a group of students from Cyprus who look forward to come together, meet each other and promote our culture and traditions to the rest of the student body.</p> <p>We will organize events in which we will share our common culture through traditional dancing, music and food. We also want to introduce language classes of both Greek and Turkish which will be open for everyone to attend.</p>	Our aim is to unite both Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots under one society to promote friendship, peace, communication and understanding between the two communities so that we overcome any political barriers. Despite the division of the two communities at home we want to come together under one Cypriot identity.	£3	
Lego	Durham Lego Society is a relaxed society where Lego lovers can come together and enjoy an evening of playing with Lego. We meet fortnightly and details can be found on our Facebook page.	The Lego Society aims to create an environment where students can escape the stress of university life, as well as meeting new people and having an opportunity to be creative.	£3	
Scandinavian	<p>The Durham University Scandinavian Society is a student group that intends to connect Scandinavian students together, as well as anyone interested in the Scandinavian culture.</p> <p>We are hosting Scandinavian-</p>	Our aims are to provide a platform where Scandinavian students can get in contact with each other through socials and other events, as well as invite 'non-Scandinavian' students	£3	

	<p>themed socials and events throughout the year - everyone is welcome!</p>	<p>that are interested in the Scandinavian culture, language or just want to make friends. We want to make the society a community where Scandinavians can feel at home while at the same time share their culture with the Durham student community.</p>		
<p>Nichiren Buddhism</p>	<p>We are a society dedicated to the practice and study of the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin, the 13th century Japanese reformist Buddhist priest, who taught that by simply chanting the phrase 'Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo' anyone can awaken to their own innate Buddha nature and thereby tap the power to transform their destiny, break free from the shackles of endless suffering, unlock their unlimited potential as a human being and establish a state of complete freedom and ultimate happiness in this present existence.</p> <p>We hold regular meetings</p>	<p>Our purpose is to support each other in the faith, practice and study of Nichiren's teachings, having meetings and chanting together on campus for the peace and happiness of our fellow students at Durham. We also aim to share this powerful practice with our friends and anyone who else who is interested by holding introductory meetings on campus for anyone to attend.</p>	<p>£1</p>	

	<p>where we meet up to chant together, study Nichiren's writings and share our struggles and our experiences of using the practice to triumph in our daily lives. All our meetings are completely open to anyone who wants to come. You are warmly welcome regardless of your background and we will cater to you and try to answer any questions you may have!</p> <p>We look forward to meeting you!!!</p>			
Werewolf	<p>Werewolf is a party game, a mind game for a large group of people. People can play it just sitting in a circle with role identification cards. The basic rules are easy to learn while playing it well requires good analytical and presentation skills. Since December 2015, we have had a long trial period before we decided to register as a society at the Students' Union. The group has grown from having only about 10 players at the beginning to having over 100 players now.</p>	<p>We aim to develop members' analytical and presentation skills by playing the fun game and to let students with the same interest from all year levels (UG & PG), from different colleges, from both campus and from different cultural and academic backgrounds play the game together and make new friends.</p>	£1	

	<p>On average, we run meetings twice a week mainly on Durham Campus at the moment, while we are trying to organise activities on Queen's Campus next year as well.</p> <p>Two distinctive features of the group make us distinctive. First, the current players are from all year levels and from different colleges, while roughly about 70% of the players are postgraduates. Second, given the large proportion of the players being postgraduates, we will keep running society meetings during the summer.</p>			
The Tangent	<p>The Tangent is a student run blog that publishes academically focused articles written by a team of volunteer student journalists at Durham University. We report on a wide range of subjects, from History and Literature to Archaeology and Geography as well as Physics, Chemistry and Biology. We aim to allow students to explore and write about new areas of interest that they have encountered in</p>	<p>We aim to:- Create a high quality blog written by students for students.- Enable students to develop their writing and communication skills for a student audience in a blog format. - To encourage people to explore their subject beyond lectures and essays.</p>	£2	<p>The Bubble believe this group's aims are too similar to that of The Bubble and so would speak against this group being ratified.</p>

	<p>the news or whilst studying here at Durham. We want to include as many writers as possible from a wide selection of disciplines so if you are interested in writing and want to explore your subject beyond the bounds of your degree then the Tangent Blog is the place for you.</p>			
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TO: Assembly
FROM: Jo Gower, Community Officer
RE: People of Colour Association Ratification

A group of students have presented an application (see application following) to form the People of Colour Association.

Reviewing an application for creation of an association is similar to reviewing an application for a new society however, their role within the University community is different. Associations are meant to be responsible for providing representation and, where appropriate, support and provide social opportunities and activities for students identifying with those Associations. In addition, you should consider:

- Whether the proposed aims and objectives are in line with the aims and objectives of the Students' Union;
- Whether the aims break or circumvent the law; or
- Whether their aims and objectives comply the policies and procedures of the Students' Union.

Further, associations are recognised by name in our Standing Orders; thus a vote to approve the formation of the People of Colour Association is also a vote to amend the Standing Orders (Standing Order G. 9) to formally recognise the new association.

Description of the association

Durham People of Colour aims to provide representation and support for members of Durham University who identify as a person of colour. DUPOC aims to provide a safe, welcoming space for racial minorities to access confidential welfare services, meetings and talks, social events, campaigns, and education on race-related issues.

What are your association aims + objectives?

- Represent and serve as a voice for students of colour within the university
 - Establish a magazine *1 in 4*, published termly to showcase work from artists and writers of colour
 - Initiate events that showcase the talent of students of colour and that express race-related issues.
 - Performance art (spoken word, open mic, theatre, essays, monologue) events
 - Art gallery/showcase
 - Science fair
- Campaign for greater BME representation within the Union
 - Draft specific code of conduct regarding racism & discrimination to be incorporated into University & DSU regulations
 - Represent POC as a consultative group to influence policies and practices
- Provide safe spaces for multiple ethnicities to discuss race-related issues (including people who do not fit into one community)
 - Maintain a facebook group that will serve as a casual online space where students of colour can share and vent about their experiences
 - Maintain an anonymous messaging board where people can ask questions and share experiences on race-related issues
- Provide support and networking community (regarding racial experiences)
 - Establish a parent system for first years, similar to college parents, but paying greater attention to shared cultural & racial experiences
 - Weekly tea and coffee socials 'Diversi-tea' where people can network, vent, and share experiences & hold discussions in a safe space
- Increase awareness of and promote appreciation + respect for cultural diversity
 - Through events (paired with other cultural societies) to increase awareness and celebrate different cultures
 - Through magazine - spread by a cultural society; submissions by POC individuals or groups
- Facilitate greater dialogue on racial issues between staff/students of colour and the university
 - Workshops: white privilege; cultural appropriation vs. appreciation
 - Talks: racism vs. xenophobia, institutional racism in the UK; (possible speakers: Rhammel Afflick, Hera Hussain)
 - Hold conferences / panels / forums: mental health; faith (and feminism); gender and race
- Campaign for zero tolerance of discrimination
 - Awareness week dedicated to educating university on history of racial hierarchies and contemporary systemic racism
 - Implicit Awareness Test (IAT) - test of unconscious social biases regarding race, gender, sexuality, etc:
<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>
 - Concise pamphlets discussing:
 - 'political correctness' / hypersensitivity / why acknowledging racialised experiences is important
 - Difference between race, ethnicity, and nationality
 - Racism vs. xenophobia (immigrants, othering, nationalism)

- History of racism & why it's still relevant
- Does reverse racism exist?
- What are microaggressions and why they matter (w/ I, Too, Am Durham campaign)

Sources of Funding

- Donation-based events (e.g. suggested donation of £1) for documentary screenings, social events, workshops & discussions
- Sponsorships & collaboration with both local organisations (Picturehouse Cinemas, arts charities, Amnesty International) and national NGOs ([UK Race and Europe Network](#), [The Red Card](#))
- Sell print copies of *1 in 4* magazine (possible print service: http://www.blurb.com/pricing#/tab/magazines?_k=5ytowr)
- University grants for awareness weeks & campaigns
- **Potential Costs:**
 - Magazine printing
 - Website domain registration

Diversitea Socials:

- Aim: provide a comfortable and unquestioned space for people of colour to discuss and share race-related experiences and current affairs
- Where: DSU
- When: weekly
- Who: open to anybody who identifies as a person of colour
- How: 'advertise' via facebook group + possible mailing list

Events Ideas

- Alternative Fashion Show: showcase fashion from different cultures, raise money for charity, + social event
- Movie Nights:
 - POC themed movies (Mulan, Selma, 12 Years A Slave)
 - Documentary showings, (e.g. White People, a Documentary; Dear White People; Girlhood)
 - Possibly liaise with world cinema club
- Set up an educational youtube channel with concise videos on race-related issues
- 'I Am Not ____' (a stereotype) campaign
 - Blackboard outside the library/DSU
 - Social media posts (e.g. I am not your token foreign friend, I am not your asian wikipedia)
- "Go back to where you came from." campaign with Durham students
 - http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2016/06/15/toronto-ocasi-signs-islamophobia_n_10485888.html
- Participate in Open Days for interested freshers - many applicants of colour take University racial demographics into consideration when making offer decisions, thus assuring them of adequate minority representation is key to increasing proportion of BME students at Durham
 - *"When asked for comment on the low intake of BME students at Durham, the University said "the University's Access Agreement recognises that the University receives a low proportion of undergraduate applications from BME applicants, which results in a low percentage of entrants."*

Exec:

- President
- Vice president
- Secretary

- Treasurer/Finance and Sponsorship officer
- Welfare officers
- Publicity and Media Officer
- Campaigns
- Speakers Officer
- Social sec??

Reps: Reps will help moderate the facebook group, assist the welfare officer

- Students with Disabilities
- Postgraduate & Mature Students Rep
- LGBT+a rep
- Faith Rep?
- Rep for each ethnicity/cultural background? (to be decided in AGM?)

Need for greater representation:

- ["Majority of racist incidents on campus go unreported"](#) *The Palatinate*, 5 May 2016.
 - *"The survey run by Palatinate also found that 70.2% of the students who took part felt that colleges and the Students' Union should improve BME representation."*
 - *"Neither the University nor the Students' Union currently has a Code of Conduct specific to preventing discrimination of BME students."*

Groups to collaborate with:

- Durham University Feminism Society → I, Too, Am Durham campaign
- DU LGBT+a and SwDA
- Amnesty International
- Human Rights
- St. Mary's Freedom Society

Interested People:

1. Atharva Deshmukh (St. Cuthbert's)
2. Andre Woon (St. Cuthbert's)
3. Phyllis Choi (St. Cuthbert's)
4. Kez Osman (Van Mildert)
5. Patricio Orden (St. Cuthbert's)
6. Thien P. Nguyen (Hild & Bede)
7. Jo Thandi (graduated)
8. Chloe Djorbua (Hild & Bede)
9. Taha Hashim (St. Cuthbert's)
10. Josiah Odigie (St. Cuthbert's)
11. Uday Duggal (St. Cuthbert's)
12. Brook Abraha (St. Mary's)
13. Ashwin Ralph D'souza (St. Cuthbert's)
14. Alisa Brown (Van Mildert)
15. Tra My Hickin (St. Cuthbert's)
16. Nancy Huang (St. Cuthbert's)
17. Iris Lang (Van Mildert)

Existing POC Societies (not including stuff like African drumming or Muay Thai) - self identifying

- East: Asia
 - Anglo Japanese
 - Hong Kong
 - Chinese (Christian Fellowship)
 - Korean
- South-East:
 - Brueian

- Indonesian
 - Taiwan
 - Vietnam
 - Singapore
 - Thai
 - Malaysian
- South Asia
 - Pakistan
 - Indian
 - South Asian
- West Asian North African
 - Kurdish
 - Turkish
 - Islamic Soc
 - Eastern European ???
- Latinx:
 - Hispanic
 - Mexican
- Afro-Caribbean:
 - Nigerian

TO: Assembly

FROM: Officer Team

RE: Letter of Concern re: Champagne Society

Background

In July the Students' Union received correspondence from the Pro Vice Chancellor (Colleges and Student Experience) and the Chair of Durham City Partnership raising serious concerns about the Champagne Society summer ball at Hardwick Hall. The Durham City Partnership was established in response to the tragic events of 2014/15, and the Chair was sufficiently concerned by the details of the Champagne Society ball that he resolved to bring this matter formally to the attention of the Students' Union's Chief Executive.

The Students' Union Chief Executive was asked by the University to investigate the matter on the basis of the potentially life threatening combination of excessive alcohol and students entering the water at Hardwick Hall. Whilst the Champagne Society Exec engaged positively with Students' Union staff, the Police and Hardwick Hall in the run up to the event, it became clear that the risk assessment put in place had not been delivered on the night.

As the legal entity ultimately responsible for the Champagne Society, the Students' Union has taken this matter extremely seriously and recognises the potential legal and reputational challenges presented. Senior Students' Union staff members and Student Officers have met with the Police and reviewed matters internally. As a student-led organisation, the Students' Union believes it is important for student leaders to debate this matter and decide what, if any, sanctions are to be taken against the Society.

Information Received by the Union

University letter

See attached correspondence from Sam Dale (Deputy Academic Registrar and Chair of Durham City Partnership) and Graham Towl (former PVC for Student Experience and Colleges)

Police

Many of the Police Officers that attended the Champagne Ball in June were not actually on duty and therefore attended without being paid. They attended due to the number of incidents reported and because they had serious concerns about the safety of students in attendance. Initially a small number of Officers attended to monitor the event, however they had to call for back up due to the severity and volume of incidents.

The Students' Union has had several constructive meetings with the Police since the Champagne Ball and our Policy Manager, Governance Director and President have had sight of 'bodycam' footage from the night in question. Here is a summary of what was witnessed and reported:

1. A number of female students were unconscious due to being so intoxicated and two students were taken to hospital
2. The St. Johns Ambulance volunteers in attendance were ill-prepared for the levels of intoxication and struggled to respond to the more serious incidents. In one piece of footage two volunteers are seen carrying an unconscious student up a flight of stairs in a blanket. The Police reported that the volunteers did not know what to do when faced with students losing consciousness and simply called 999
3. There was no designated medical room – meaning students had to be carried up the stairs and simply placed on the floor
4. Members of the Champagne Society's Exec – including the President – were intoxicated, despite giving assurances they would remain sober
5. Glasses of champagne were not being distributed by the glass as specified and students were simply drinking from bottles
6. The amount of champagne at the event exceeded anything discussed with the Police before the event
7. Cocaine was being used by students and there was evidence that the security staff were flushing it down the toilet
8. In another piece of footage, Police Officers are expressing deep concern for students in the pond. On a number of occasions Officers can be heard ordering the students to get out of the water
9. The Police advised Hardwick Hall to shut down the event early due to safety concerns and high levels of intoxication

Champagne Society

Champagne Society's new Exec have cooperated and engaged with the Union since the June ball and we had a constructive meeting in early October. The new Executive seemed conciliatory and aware of the failings of the summer ball. They understood the severity of what happened in terms of the safety of students and accepted that the failure to properly implement the risk mitigations was the responsibility of the Champagne Society and specifically, the Exec.

The new Exec accepted that last year's Exec were intoxicated at the ball and therefore unable to address many of the challenges that arose on the night. They were also honest about the fact that there were excessive amounts of champagne available on the night. They put this down to the fact that magnums of champagne – as opposed to bottles – were delivered in error. When the Students' Union met with new Champagne Society Exec, we discussed the possibility of reducing the size of their events until they can demonstrate improvements in the following areas of events management: welfare, security, implementation of risk assessments and the availability of alcohol.

Students' Union's approach to risk assessment

The Students' Union takes the health and safety of students extremely seriously and aims to empower student groups to mitigate vulnerabilities and risks when organising events. The Students' Union requires student groups to follow robust risk assessments, however in light of concerning incidents at the Champagne Society summer ball we are considering the following:

1. Union staff or Officers to attend large events to ensure compliance with risk assessments

2. Agreement with St. Johns Ambulance that their staff will be experienced at dealing with alcohol and drug related incidents at large events
3. Ensuring that student groups – where possible – use security staff that have experience of working at student events or student venues
4. Prohibiting the use of Hardwick Hall for all events
5. Compulsory event planning training for relevant student groups planning to hold events for more than 200 people
6. Utilisation of the County Durham Safety Advisory Group (SAG) for events of more than 200 people

These potential changes will be introduced through and discussed at Societies Committee.

Options

Assembly members are asked to consider the information provided in this report and decide whether formal action is necessary. To aid the decision-making process four options are presented:

1. **Warning**

A formal written warning will be issued to the Society Exec and their members. The Students' Union will update its Trustee Board and the Durham City Partnership of this course of action.

2. **Education and Probation**

Champagne Society will be put on probation until Epiphany term. To avoid further sanctions, the Society will have to demonstrate improvements in the implementation of risk assessments and their commitment to student safety. The issue will be brought back to Assembly should the Students' Union deem the Society to have failed the probation period. The Society will also be required to:

- I. engage in training on events planning/management
- II. liaise with the Students' Union and Police regarding future events and learning from the summer ball
- III. work with the Students' Union to develop an action plan for the year ahead – including plans for future events and improvements that are going to be made

3. **Suspension**

Champagne Society will be suspended for one year and unable to hold any events until the academic year 2017-2018.

4. **De-ratification**

Assembly will de-ratify Champagne Society and they will cease to be a Society of the Students' Union. Assembly may determine a time period before a new group of similar aims could apply for ratification in future.

Officers 'preferred option'

The Officer team recommends the second option, 'Education and Probation' to Assembly. As an organisation we are committed to supporting student led activities but regard student welfare with utmost importance. With this in mind we feel the society must demonstrate their responsibility and commitment to the safety of those participating in their events. We would like the society exec to

have the chance to implement lessons learnt from the event in June 2016, with the support of Union staff to ensure risks are sufficiently mitigated at future events. We emphasise the importance of 'probation' in this circumstance; Champagne Society must demonstrate significant improvement. On balance, our student-led ethos coupled with the severity of this incident, we feel this is the most proportionate option.

Subject: Durham City Partnership: serious concern regarding the Champagne Society Ball

Dear Dianne,

When we met earlier in the week I mentioned that I had been contacted regarding concerns about a recent Champagne Society event. An outline of the concerns are listed below. I write to request that you investigate this matter and share with me the deliberations of your investigation. I would envisage that you may well wish to speak with the police directly yourself to further inform your understanding and investigation. To this end I have copied in the police liaison officer Rebecca Carey.

I regret needing to bring this matter to your attention but I am confident that you will understand my need to do so. If I can be of any help in addressing these matters working with you do please let me know and I will endeavour to help.

Thank you in anticipation.

Best wishes,

Graham.

Professor Graham Towl
Pro Vice Chancellor Colleges and Student Experience
Durham University, UK.

Dear Graham,

I'm writing to you in my role as the Chair of the Durham City Partnership and in recognition of your role as institutional lead for the management of the University's relationship with the Students' Union. As you are aware, the Durham City Partnership was established in response to the tragic events of 2014/15 and it brings together representatives of the University, the Police, the Fire Service, Durham County Council and the Students' Union. We are brought together in a collective endeavour to review issues of student safety within Durham City.

At our meeting yesterday we were provided with details from the Police about the Champagne Society Ball that took place last term at Hardwick Hall. The details provided by the Police were so concerning to the Partnership that we resolved to write to you to ask that these matters be brought formally to the attention of the Chief Executive of the Students' Union. We understand that, whilst a risk assessment was put in place by the Champagne Society prior to the event, the action taken to mitigate the risks was either not delivered or was inadequate. The Police reported the following incidents:

- i) That drunken students (some of whom were naked) entered the lake at Hardwick Park and had to be forcefully asked to come out by the Police.
- ii) That a number of students were clearly incapacitated and unconscious at the event due to excessive alcohol. This made them vulnerable.
- iii) Couples were openly having sex.

- iv) Students vomited on Police Officers and others due to excessive drinking. Some students vomited on the coaches returning them to Durham immediately putting those coaches out of action for transporting others.
- v) That excessive alcohol was provided to students at the event. The Police commented that, in addition to arrival drinks, students appear to have been provided with 2 bottles of champagne each to drink with their meal.
- vi) That students were drinking from glass bottles of champagne outside the dining area. This was a hazard as some bottles were smashed and this caused injuries to feet.
- vii) That, in addition to the alcohol provided, Hardwick Park took £45K behind the bar during the evening.
- viii) That there was evidence of cocaine use at the event.

The toxic combination of excessive alcohol and students entering the water at Hardwick Park caused the Partnership particular concern in light of previous events. Whilst we have not heard directly from the organisers of the event, the concerns were felt to be sufficiently serious that the issue should be raised with the Chief Executive and we would request your support in doing this. Our suggestion is that the Chief Executive be asked to investigate this matter as the Society falls under the governance structure of the Union and that any future Balls organised by the Champagne Society be suspended until this investigation has been completed and the Chief Executive is satisfied that they can go ahead safely. Please note that we understand that the Champagne Society traditionally run a Winter Ball and are likely to approach Hardwick Hall again as they have been excluded from other venues for poor behaviour. The Champagne Society refer to their Ball as being "infamous", see: <http://www.durhamsu.com/groups/champagne>.

The Police also informed the Partnership that Hardwick Hall do not appear to be taking the concerns they have raised with the venue seriously. The Police have serious concerns about the way in which the event was managed by the Hall. This included intervening during the event to prevent the Hall from selling further alcohol. Consequently our other recommendation is to ask the Chief Executive to consider not allowing student society events to take place at that venue until the outcome of any investigation is known.

I would be happy to talk this through with you further. I know from our joint experience during 2014/15 how seriously you will view these concerns. The partners are all happy to work with the Students' Union to ensure that future events can be delivered safely.

Best regards,

Sam

Assembly meeting: 27th October – Follow up from the Champagne Society's summer ball on 5th June.

The Executive committee of the Champagne Society recognises that on top of further things, this meeting provides us with an opportunity to thank the police for the hard work that they put in at our event in order to keep the students safe. No society in Durham has ever thrown a ball as big, grand and expensive as the summer ball that was held on the 5th June. Many students felt that this event was the best event that they had been to in the entirety of their time in Durham. However, due to the scale of the event amongst other factors, we do recognize that there were problems at the ball and would like to thank the police for their report.

As a new executive committee we are fully committed to working in close alliance with both the police and the DSU in order to create events which are fundamentally safe for the student body. We are determined to tackle the causes of the issues which have been raised and are fully committed in preventing these from happening in the future. Fundamentally, one of the most important things that we can do in alliance with the police and DSU is to make sure that the risk assessment that we draw up is fully put in place and executed, this is something that will be fully implemented for any future events.

(The red text below entails the concerns that have been raised in the police report, with our responses below in blue text.)

i) That drunken students (some of whom were naked) entered the lake at Hardwick Park and had to be forcefully asked to come out by the Police.

- We recognize that in light of past events this is a serious matter which should be taken with extreme importance.
- We had a member of the security team patrolling the outside area. However, there were substantial grounds and in hindsight one member patrolling the outside area was not enough.
- In future events, we will work closer with the halls in order to make sure that there are security guards watching all hazardous areas such as a lake or road.
- Fundamentally, for future events we will improve our ratio of students to security workers.

ii) That a number of students were clearly incapacitated and unconscious at the event due to excessive alcohol. This made them vulnerable.

- Laurent Perrier delivered to us magnums instead of single bottles by accident. This vastly increased the amount of champagne that was made available to the students.
- Hardwick neglected their responsibility to stop serving students whom had clearly already had too much to drink. This was something that we had briefed them on.
- We will continue to make sure that non-alcohol tickets are available to be purchased.
- In future events we will make sure that students whom are already deemed 'too drunk' do not get served.
- We will encourage an atmosphere of safe drinking at the events.
- Although we believe that enough measures will be put in place at future events to prevent students becoming incapacitated or unconscious due to excessive alcohol, we will include a welfare Centre and make sure that we have experienced workers with us from Saint John's ambulance. This would greatly reduce the vulnerability of students whom do happen to be slightly too drunk.

iii) Couples were openly having sex.

- We feel that more detail should be included here. We saw no couples at the event openly having sex. Further to this, we question whether the welfare of the student body is greatly affected by such claims.

iv) Students vomited on Police Officers and others due to excessive drinking. Some students vomited on the coaches returning them to Durham immediately putting those coaches out of action for transporting others.

- The issues raised by the coaching company are ones which we are currently in discussion over. The Coach service in question made it difficult for the event to get those students who were intoxicated away from the venue as the number of coaches previously arranged was not met.
- We had coaches going back to Durham City throughout the night which allowed the student to return home at any hour they pleased. As a society we accounted for potential coaches being out of action but the coach company made it tricky for us in the first instance by not providing the number of coaches we had agreed.

v) That excessive alcohol was provided to students at the event. The Police commented that, in addition to arrival drinks, students appear to have been provided with 2 bottles of champagne each to drink with their meal.

- This is something that was outside our control, our suppliers massive messed up what our original was.
- Magnum bottles arrived instead of single bottles.

vi) That students were drinking from glass bottles of champagne outside the dining area. This was a hazard as some bottles were smashed and this caused injuries to feet.

- We accept that this is hazardous. In future events we will take every measure to make sure that the empty bottles are taken from tables - students whom have bottles will be told to use a glass with immediate effect. If students do not comply with these rules then they may be asked to leave by a member of staff working there, the exec, or security.

vii) That, in addition to the alcohol provided, Hardwick Park took £45K behind the bar during the evening.

- When this figure is looked at in light of the 1300 people who attended our event, it shows that on average each person purchased one drink. This is therefore not as excessive as it first seems.
- As an executive body, we are not sure about the factuality of this statement.

viii) That there was evidence of cocaine use at the event.

- We Completely condemn the use of drugs as a society. It is paramount to the safety of the student body that there is no drug use at our events.
- At the event, security was briefed that if students were caught using drugs, they would be kicked out immediately.
- This policy is something that we wish to carry forward. By having a better ratio of students to security workers and informing students of our anti-drug policy at the start of the balls then we feel that drug use at our events will be eradicated.

Fundamentally, the ball that we threw on the 5th June was the largest ball that has ever been thrown by any Durham University Society in recent times. Due to the sheer nature and size of the event, the amount of problems which occurred were always going to be greater than that of other events. The issues that occurred were not ones which were secluded to this event, these problems happen at many university student balls. Thus we state that it is important to note the sheer size of this ball, with one thousand more students attending this ball than the vast majority of any other student

balls, we must state that this was a key determinant in magnifying the problems that arose on the night. Therefore, as a new executive committee we can see exactly what went right and also what went wrong for future events. We feel extremely confident that by working closely alongside the DSU and Police in the future, we can maintain the legacy of our previous committee in throwing Durham's best events yet also keep the safety of the student body as our primary focus.

TO: Assembly

FROM: Kara-Jane Senior, Activities Officer

RE: Request from Hong Kong Society to De-ratify DUHKPASS

Background

The Durham University Hong Kong Society is requesting that you de-ratify the Durham University Hong Kong Public Affairs and Social Service Society. The basis for the request, as stated in the materials included, is that DUHKS has, for a number of years, provided public affairs and social services. Unfortunately, their constitution was never changed to reflect this and Societies Committee was unaware last academic year when it reviewed and recommended ratification of DUHKPASS's application.

Both DUHKS and DUHKPASS have provided written submissions providing support for their positions; these follow. Additionally, Societies Committee at its 6 June 2016 meeting reviewed and discussed the request and voted to support DUHKS's request. Those minutes are attached for your convenience.

Rules

The Standing Orders and Student Group Regulations form the basis for a review of any new society. The Standing Orders provide, "Any Club or Society whose aims and objectives do not contravene the Union's policies and procedures may apply to affiliate as a society of the Union." Further, the Student Group Regulations provides that registration can be rejected if the group's aims and objectives:

- are not in line with the aims and objectives of the Students' Union;
- aims to break or circumvent the law; or
- do not comply the policies and procedures of the Students' Union.

It has been a long standing aim and objective of the Union to have student groups that are sustainable and offer something different to the other student groups. It has been longstanding practice to require new student groups to provide information in their application showing how their aims and objectives are different to existing societies.

Your job

You are asked to vote to de-ratify DUHKPASS. A 'yes' vote means you are in favour of de-ratification and approval of the attached new Constitution for DUHKS; a 'no' vote means you support DUHKPASS remaining as a Union society.



Dear Durham Student Union,

I am writing the letter on behalf of the Durham University Hong Kong Society (DUHKS), with regards to the recent establishment of the Durham University Hong Kong Public Affairs and Social Services Society (DUHKPASS). There are several issues that we would like to bring to the attention of the Student Union. Firstly, the overlap of the nature and aims of the DUHKS and DUHKPASS. Secondly, the manner in which Desmond Ho and Christopher Yiu had gone about setting up the society. Thirdly, the arguments that they made in furtherance of the establishment of this society are weak and unconvincing. And lastly, the change in stance of one of the founding members (Christopher Yiu) on DUHKPASS.

Overlapping nature and aims

The main aim of the DUHKS is to promote the Hong Kong culture within and outside the Durham community, and to embrace members from all cultural backgrounds and strive to improve their welfare throughout their university career. Currently, the PASS section of our society holds events throughout the year to raise awareness of Hong Kong related issues, and so that all the Hong Kong societies within other universities are able to exchange their views on such issues.

As stated in the letter of official establishment of DUHKPASS, their main aim is to promote awareness in Hong Kong related social issues, and to act as a platform for exchange of ideas on public issues of both Hong Kong and United Kingdom. This clearly shows that fundamentally, the nature and aims of the two societies are pretty much identical.

DUHKS has had several talks with a founding member of DUHKPASS. Unfortunately, we were unable to reach a consensus. We find that their stance on what should happen next is unclear. One minute they are trying to strong arm us into giving up our PASS section, so that the nature and aims of our society are different (and thus targeting different groups), and the next, they are suggesting that DUHKS is a potential partner in coordinating PASS events. After several lengthy meetings, DUHKS has decided to continue having a PASS section next year; to continue to strive towards reaching our aim of promoting awareness. This means that essentially, there will be two societies within the University doing the same thing. This shows that DUHKPASS is redundant.

Even if DUHKPASS continues to exist, without the support of DUHKS, it will not do well as a society. This is because DUHKS will continue to be the society that deals with all the Hong Kong societies across UK and abroad; all the main PASS events of the year will still be held by DUHKS.



Setting up DUHKPASS

We would like to stress the fact that neither Desmond nor Christopher had even mentioned the possibility of setting up DUHKPASS to anyone in DUHKS before they approached you (the DSU). In fact, members of DUHKS and the executive committee of the DUHKS itself found out from other university societies whom were invited to like DUHKPASS's official facebook page.

As DUHKS is a society that places huge importance on the PASS section of our society, we have discussed in previous meetings the possibility of setting up a separate PASS society, however ultimately, we did not put this plan into action this year as we believe that Durham is not yet ready for a separate society. As a member of the executive committee, Christopher knew this very well. One would assume that someone that was not familiar with the current situation of the Hong Kong Society would seek advice from people that were familiar (namely the executive committee of DUHKS). Desmond, not being an active member of DUHKS, should have approached us first before suggesting the establishment of DUHKPASS, as we would have made clear to him the reasons why we do not think the job of DUHKS should be separated into another society just yet.

From what we have gathered, the DSU is under the impression that this new society has the support of DUHKS. This is not the case. DUHKS has recently published a disclaimer stating that DUHKPASS is in no way affiliated with DUHKS.

Arguments provided by DUHKPASS

DUHKPASS has provided several arguments in favor of establishing a separate PASS society. We would like to take this opportunity to address some of the reasons given.

Firstly, DUHKPASS has highlighted the fact that there are 340+ Hong Kong students currently studying at Durham University and 1230+ alumni in Hong Kong, thus it would be conducive to students for the differentiation of DUHKS and DUHKPASS.

This was one of the main factors which we considered as a committee, and despite lengthy debate, we still came to an overall consensus that it is not the right time. We propose that the DSU delay the set up of this committee for a few more years. Our reasons for this is that, despite having this many HK students and alumni, it is clear from all our past events that a very small proportion of them are currently active right now within the society. This lack of participation is not because of the failure of publicizing our events. In fact, if you take a look at our facebook page etc, we have placed priority in publicizing pass events over all of our other events. How would this change by having a separate society? We don't think it will.

Secondly, in response to our argument of the small number of participants, DUHKPASS has stated that 'a low number of students does not equate a lack of support', and that 'every university with adequate support and awareness, regardless if explicit or potential should deserve a PASS organization'.



We would like to clarify that we whilst we did raise the argument that Durham's HK student population is small compared to other universities, it is the lack of participation of this already small population that we are concerned about. As mentioned above, this society is already considerably PASS-centric. Despite this, there is still a lack of participation, and as a committee, and in our current situation, we do not think that this would change by establishing a separate society.

Unlike other universities, DUHKPASS does not have the support of the existing HK society; the PASS societies in other universities have the support of the other Hong Kong societies within that university. Moreover, it is easier and more feasible for the other universities that do have a PASS to involve other universities that have a larger HK population, due to the proximity of those universities. Durham has tried to set up such activities in the past, but have found it almost impossible to convince other university Hong Kong societies to travel all the way up to Durham to participate in such events.

Lastly, the three reasons provided by the founding members in a private message to our executive society (We have attached a copy of this in our email, titled 'DUHKPASS to DUHK Exec'). The three reasons provided by them are: Firstly, the failure to promote awareness of Hong Kong related social issues among students due to the inadequate structure of DUHKS, second the different nature and aims of HKS and PASS, and lastly, to compete with other top universities.

As a society, we believe that these are weak and easily rectifiable reasons. DUHKS has decided to reorganize our current structure in order to place more emphasis on our PASS division of the society. More information of this restructuring will be provided in our AGM post, to be expected shortly. Secondly, it is wrong to suggest that the nature and aims of HKS and PASS are so different that we are unable to hold events effectively or efficiently. As made abundantly clear many times before, and as we will state again, the main aim of the DUHKS is to promote the Hong Kong culture within and outside the Durham community, and to embrace members from all cultural backgrounds and strive to improve their welfare throughout their university career. This clearly shows that fundamentally, the nature and aims of the two societies are the same. Lastly, the founding members fail to point out that in comparison, Durham's population of Hong Kong students remains significantly lower than the majority of top universities that Durham aims to compete with. As of right now, if we wish to maintain or further enhance the standard of our HKS and PASS events, we must keep both sections under one party. Any separation would result in negative consequences for either section, an outcome which we are sure all of you would like to avoid.

Change in stance of founding member

After speaking to Christopher Yiu, he too agrees that there is a substantial overlap of work between DUHKS and DUHKPASS, thus supporting our point that DUHKPASS is redundant.



Christopher has stated that he has put himself in a difficult situation as a co-founder of DUHKPASS and a executive member of DUHKS. To avoid any further conflicts of interest, he has decided to officially step down from his position as founding member and executive member of DUHKPASS.

On top of Christopher's resignation, Desmond Ho is currently in his 4th year, and will be graduating at the end of this academic year, meaning that there will be no one in charge of DUHKPASS next year, thus we believe that it should be scraped for now. As a society, we would like the opportunity to plan out the establishment of DUHKPASS in a proper way, rather than rushing to set it up in a time when we believe Durham University is not ready.

We do believe that having a separate society will be necessary in the future, but as of right now, we feel that the best way forward would be to keep the PASS society under DUHKS to avoid any conflicts and potential complications.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter. We hope that you take our points into consideration, and postpone the establishment of the DUHKPASS.

Yours sincerely,

Durham University Hong Kong Society

Hong Kong Society and Hong Kong Public Affairs and Social Service Society

In February Societies Committee recommended the society Hong Kong Public Affairs and Social Service (DUHKPASS) to be ratified by Assembly. Assembly, followed the recommendation and ratified the new society. Since then the Hong Kong Society (DUHKS) have been in communications with the Students' Union claiming that this new society clashes with the aims of the DUHKS and therefore should not have been ratified.

Students' Union staff and the Activities Officer have met with the founding members of DUHKPASS and most of the committee member of DUHKS to hear both sides of the case. Below are summaries of what was said at those meetings.

DUHKPASS (3 March 2016)

- DUHKS had made setting up the society difficult for them as they did not agree with their ratification.
- DUHKS are changing their structure deliberately to remove the need for DUHKPASS.
- One of the founding members of DUHKPASS was on the exec of DUHKS so was in a difficult situation. Apparently DUHKS had made this person write a statement that he was now against the new society.
- DUHKPASS will seek exec members.

DUHKS (20 April 2016)

- They believe the other society should not exist as DUHKS already offer PASS activities (has done for many years) and have two exec members who look after this area.
- However, DUHKS have not changed their constitution for several years so the PASS activities and exec positions are not on record at the Students' Union.
- DUHKPASS was set up by members of DUHKS, one of which was a PASS rep but who never discussed with DUHKS that he wanted to set up a separate society.
- DUHKPASS attempted to recruit exec at DUHKS's AGM but now seem to be holding off on finding exec until next academic year.
- Members of DUHKPASS apparently need to be approved by the exec, which goes against the Student Group Regulations.
- DUHKS will update their constitution so that it represents how the society currently operates. Changes to the group's aims will need Assembly approval.
- Having two societies is causing confusion for the Hong Kong related societies at other universities.

Societies Committee is often asked to review new society applications and make recommendations to Assembly, so it seems sensible for the Committee to discuss this situation and recommend to Assembly an action. Representatives from both societies will be notified of the Societies Committee meeting so that they may be present to answer questions and clarify the situation. The Committee's will need to make recommendations to Assembly.

The Committee will need to decide whether to recommend:

- DUHKPASS remain a ratified society with Durham Students' Union;
- DUHKPASS be de-registered as a society as its activities conflict with those of DUHKS, which the founding members of the new society should have been aware of;
- Whether any other actions are required.

Societies Committee Minutes

6 June, MR1 Dunelm House

Present: Hazel Dixon (Chair), Kara-Jane Senior, Tom Reeves, Young Ah Kim, and Josephine Semple

Observing: Christine Stretesky, Mike Potter

Not in attendance: Helen Chamberlain, Zack Hodari and Sara Gracey

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes were accepted with no revision.

Hong Kong and Hong Kong PAHSS Societies:

HD reminded members of the issues and stated that she was in agreement with the bullet points on the papers. The committee discussed whether two separate societies were necessary and concluded that it would recommend to Assembly that HKPAHSS be de-registered, HKS constitution be modified to include PASS activities, and if HKS does not undertake PASS activities next year, a new society may seek ratification.

Review of Key Priorities:

Finance: Committee acknowledged it made a lot of progress on this and specifically noted the hard work of KJS.

Room Bookings: While this started off well, it did not sustain. Committee thinks this would be a good project for next year's committee.

Collaboration: Committee acknowledge work undertaken and that this has no end-goal but should be a constant.

Action: HD to get CS a report for Assembly by 9 June.

New Societies:

The committee reviewed the following new society applications:

Name	Societies Committee Recommendation
Students for Britain Durham	Don't ratify: this society is contrary to Union policy of supporting the Remain In campaign.
North Korea Society	Ratify: It currently lists one exec member, should have at least three.
The Li Bai Society	Don't send to Assembly: is it too similar to Chinese Society? Union to speak with Chinese Society to see if this is the same.
Durham Students for Syrian Refugees	Don't send to Assembly: seems like it is really a campaign that can be run by Amnesty International. Union to talk with organisers and see if they can work with another society or broaden their scope.

Women in Science, Technology and Engineering	Ratify: meets all requirements.
Sewing and Needlecraft Society	Don't ratify: too similar to Sewing Society.
Novae Terra	Don't ratify: too similar to Made in America.
"Water of Life" Soc	Ratify: meets all requirements.
Tea Society	Ratify: meets all requirements
Israel Forum	Ratify: meets requirements as it seems to aim to take a broad view of the issues and therefore is not too similar to Friends of Palestine.
Bureaucracy Society	Do not send to Assembly: committee to review rules and ensure all paperwork has been completed; additional paperwork may need to be created.
Arab Society	Ratify: It currently lists one exec member, should have at least three.

Action: CS to prepare memo to Assembly.

New Society Ratification Process:

KJS asked the committee for its opinion on modifications to the ratification application and process to include a requirement that organisers include any social media presence the society may have, a constitution (template to be provided by the Union), estimate of number of potential members and all execs in place. The committee discussed and came to consensus that societies committee may need to be involved in the process earlier so that members can consult with constituents, a constitution, at least three execs in place and an estimate of potential members numbers were a good idea. The committee questioned whether governance documents could be modified to give SocComm the final say in ratification. CS explained that the authority for Assembly to ratify new societies is found in the Articles of Association which require a vote of the entire student body, approval by our Board of Trustees as well as the University to modify.

Society Categories

The committee discussed the proposals and leaned toward proposal 1. They liked combining activities and outdoor, arts and music, changing cultures and faith to international and faith. The committee is going to speak with societies to gain their opinions.

Societies Forum Agenda

The committee liked the structure especially the action learning sets.

Meeting adjourned.

Durham University Hong Kong Society Constitution

1. Name & Status

- (i) The society shall be called *Durham University Hong Kong Society*.
- (ii) The aims of the society shall be as follows:

The Durham University Hong Kong Society (DUHKS) represents the Hong Kong community within Durham University. Through organising a diverse array of activities, including recreational, sporting, career, and public affairs and social service (PASS) events, we hope to create a friendly environment where members can develop lifelong friendships and skills. Students will also have the chance to participate in joint-university events organised by other Hong Kong student bodies across the UK, providing ample opportunities to expand their networking across multiple institutions. DUHKS is also responsible in hosting various flagship events every year to raise the reputation of Durham University in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. By organising such activities, we hope to bring about a bold identity for Hong Kong culture in Durham and raise our members' public and social awareness.

- (iii) As a ratified society of Durham Students' Union the society shall not breach DSU's Equal Opportunities Policy OR Data Protection Policy. The President of the society shall inform any speakers or invited guests that they are also bound by these policies.

2. Membership

- (i) Membership shall be open to all members of DSU. People who are not members of DSU may at the discretion of the society become members.
- (ii) Membership fees are to be set by the executive committee of the society. Societies may charge a higher fee for non-DSU-members of their society.
- (iii) The minimum membership fee for the society shall be prescribed by DSU.
- (iv) Non-members may be admitted to meetings at the discretion of the society executive.
- (v) The Activities Officer shall be admitted to meetings of the society if asked to attend by members of the society or DSU Council. Notification shall be provided to the society in advance.

3. Roles and Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

- (i) **THE PRESIDENT**, whose responsibilities shall include;
 - a. Acting as the nominal head and representative of the Society.
 - b. Coordination with the DUHKS Executive Committee.
 - c. Responsible for making final decisions after consultation with the committee on all matters.
 - d. Ensure DUHKS is running according to its constitutions, and is reputable amongst members, societies and any organisations.
 - e. Liaison and communication with any student and non-student organisations
 - f. Overall co-ordination of all events and responsibility for DUHKS affairs.
 - g. Chairing regular meetings of the Executive Committee and steering debate.
 - h. Ultimate control over the creation, privileges of users and content of official DUHKS media and the power to instruct relevant executive members to have a presence on DUHKS official media.
 - i. Maintaining close contact with Durham University Hong Kong Alumni Association to organise careers and social events.

- (ii) **THE VICE PRESIDENT (General)**, whose responsibilities shall include;
 - a. Close liaison with the President, acting as deputy for the President when s/he is unable to fulfill official commitments and as a support for other members of the executive committee.
 - b. Assisting the President in leading all operations and matters of the society.
 - c. Collaborating with the other Vice President to bring the members of the two campuses together.
 - d. In charge of the Summer Freshers' Orientation Camp.
 - e. Overseeing and directing the organisation of general social, sporting and cultural events
 - f. The division does not set the limit: both Vice Presidents should help out with all events. Instead, the division ensures Vice President (General) and Vice President (PASS) to be committed to their specialised area and foster the balanced development of the society.

- (iii) **THE VICE PRESIDENT (PASS)**, whose responsibilities shall include;
 - a. Close liaison with the President, acting as deputy for the President when s/he is unable to fulfill official commitments and as a support for other members of the executive committee.
 - b. Assisting the President in leading all operations and matters of the society.
 - c. Collaborating with the other Vice President to bring the members of the two campuses together.
 - d. In charge of the Summer Freshers' Orientation Camp.

- e. Overseeing and directing the organisation of public affairs, social service, and career events.
 - f. The division does not set the limit: both Vice Presidents should help out with all events. Instead, the division ensures Vice President (General) and Vice President (PASS) to be committed to their specialised area and foster the balanced development of the society. and Vice President (PASS) to be committed to their specialised area and foster the balanced development of the society.
- (iv) **THE TREASURER**, whose responsibilities shall include;
- a. Maintaining society accounts and any property whether belonging to the Society or in the care of the Society.
 - b. Keeping an accurate account of all financial records, and overseeing any financial transaction in collaboration with other executive members.
 - c. To budget and offer financial advice for all events.
 - d. In charge of liaising with contacts and sponsors, seeking sponsorship for DUHKS.
- (v) **THE GENERAL SECRETARY**, whose responsibilities shall include;
- a. Assisting the administration of the Society, including internal matters and communications with the D.S.U.
 - b. Ensuring that members are kept up to date with all the happenings of DUHKS along with the Publicity Officer.
 - c. Taking minutes in General Meetings and Executive Committee meetings, as well as DUHKS written communication and documents where appropriate.
 - d. Maintenance of DUHKS email account.
- (vi) **THE EXTERNAL SECRETARY**, whose responsibilities shall include;
- a. Assisting the President in liaison and coordination for external affairs with all other groups, societies and organisations.
 - b. Working closely with the President and Treasurer to ensure all external events are properly assessed and budgeted.
 - c. Responsible for organising and publicising DUHKS social events.
 - d. Overseeing ticket sales in collaboration with the Treasurer.
- (vii) **THE PUBLICITY OFFICER**, whose responsibilities shall include;
- a. Responsible for the promotion of all DUHKS events as well as DUHKS' image.
 - b. Maintenance of the DUHKS Facebook page and other means of publicity.
 - c. Working closely with the General Secretary to ensure all public messages are communicated appropriately and efficiently.
 - d. In charge of the DUHKS Newsletter.

- (viii) **THE SPORTS SECRETARY**, whose responsibilities shall include;
 - a. Developing a variety of sports within DUHKS and interact with all sports teams, such as basketball, badminton, football and cheerleading.
 - b. Responsible for communicating with other societies and universities regarding any sporting events, as well as organising the logistics of the participation in external sporting events.
 - c. Working with the Treasurer for allocation of funds on sport related matters, including sponsorships.
 - d. Organising Sports Games with other societies or universities.

- (ix) **THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**, whose responsibilities shall include;
 - a. Responsible for organising public affairs events, with the aim to nurture members on political, social and economic issues.
 - b. Helping members cultivate knowledge of the past and current affairs of Hong Kong and the rest of the world.
 - c. Working closely with other executive committee in all PASS events.
 - d. Assist the President and Vice President (PASS) to coordinate with all external affairs and liaison with all other PASS societies and relevant organisations.

- (x) **THE SOCIAL SERVICE OFFICER**, whose responsibilities shall include;
 - a. Responsible for organising events to increase DUHKS' involvement in charity and community service and promote social awareness.
 - b. Serves as the first point of contact with registered charities and NGOs.
 - c. Working closely with other executive committee in all PASS events.
 - d. Assist the President and Vice President (PASS) to coordinate with all external affairs and liaison with all other PASS societies and relevant organisations.

- (xi) **THE CAREERS OFFICER**, whose responsibilities shall include;
 - a. Responsible for organising careers and alumni events.
 - b. Serve as the Head of Durham University Hong Kong Career Team.
 - c. Working closely with other executive committee in all PASS events.
 - d. Assist the President in the coordination with all career-related external affairs and liaison with all other career societies and relevant organisations.

4. Election of Executive Members

- (i) All officers must be elected at or within 24 hours of the Society Annual General Meeting (AGM), of which one must be held in each academic year.
- (ii) Notification of the AGM must be circulated to all members at least 7 days in advance of the meeting.
- (iii) Nominations shall close 7 days before the AGM.
- (iv) A list of elected officers must be supplied to the Activities Officer, who shall be informed of any change within 7 days of that change.
- (v) If an Executive Committee Member resigns, a by election must be held at a Society General Meeting, using the same election procedures as at an AGM.
- (vi) A General Meeting must be held if it is called by at least 10% of members.

5. Voting of Executive Election

- (i) Every member shall have 1 vote.
- (ii) An online voting system shall be used for the Executive Elections. The voting platform shall be chosen by the current executive members.
- (iii) The online voting, lasting for 24 hours, shall be made available after the election ends, on the same day of the Executive Election. No votes shall be permitted after the 24-hour voting period.
- (iv) The Single Transferable Vote (STV) system shall be adopted if the position is contested.
- (v) The Single Transferable Vote (STV) is a form of proportional representation which uses preferential voting in multi-member constituencies. Each voter gets one vote, where they are given the choice to vote for candidates in their order of preference.
- (vi) Candidates must meet the quota (40% of all electorates; 60% for uncontested positions), determined by the size of the electorate. If no candidate acquires this after the round, the candidate with the lowest number of votes is removed. Votes will then be transferred to another candidate in accordance with their preferences. This process continues until a candidate could meet the quota. the quota adjusts according to the number of votes left. STV thus ensures that very few votes are wasted.

6. Finance & Accounts

- (i) Grants from DSU may only be claimed for by members of the Society who are members of DSU.
- (ii) The Society shall have one account that DSU will authorise.
- (iii) The President, Treasurer and Secretary and all cheque signatories must be members of DSU.
- (iv) Society accounts shall be kept for at least 3 financial years and can be inspected by members of the Society, the DSU Societies and Student Development Officer or the DSU Finance Office.

- (v) DSU grants must not be used to fund social events.
- (vi) All money provided by DSU must be spent for purposes agreed to by DSU.
- (vii) A copy of the annual accounts must be submitted to DSU annually in the form prescribed.
- (viii) The Society accounts shall be presented to the society membership annually at the AGM.

7. Business of the Society

- (i) Records of the Society's business for at least two years shall be kept for inspection by members of the Society or by the DSU Societies and Student Development officer.

8. Constitution

- (i) Constitutional amendments must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a general meeting.
- (ii) Any constitutional amendments and regulations concerning the Society's affairs that are laid down by DSU shall be binding on the Society.

This document is divided into several sections:

- General vision
- Public Affairs
 - English Debate Tournament
 - Public Affairs Forum
 - Public Affairs Conference
 - Salon Dinner
- Social Service and Mentorship
 - Suicide Prevention Services
 - Durham Law School Recruitment Work Summer 2016
- Mentorship programs for profile development
 - Academic
 - Career
- Sponsorship
- History of HKPASS organisation in the United Kingdom

General vision

The Durham University Hong Kong Public Affairs and Social Service Society (DUHKPASS) is a student-ran, non-profit society which prides on actualising student-life enrichment and provision of a mix of programs including academic, career preparation, socials and social services.

In comparison to the Durham University Hong Kong society (DUHKS), whose focus are not entirely on PASS related activities, it is inevitable that they need to allocate their limited resources on organising a much wider spectrum of events that include the summer orientation camp, various socials and Cheerleading competitions etc. However, we sincerely appreciate their effort as these type of events can facilitate friendly relationships among Hong Kong students studying at the University.

Nevertheless, with regard to PASS related activities, DUHKPASS can fully utilise the human and economic resources we possess in the most efficient way possible, with the aim being to maximise the benefits of Hong Kong students. Hence, we will be able to fulfil the objectives our society has set out to achieve.

Public Affairs

English Debate Tournament

As the Society's first major event, the *DUHKPASS English Debate Tournament 2016* (co-organised by the **Debating Society of the University of Hong Kong**) did not merely provide a **tangible platform and opportunity for interested students** to come together and discuss on various controversial topics (e.g. Article 50 of the Treaty of Rome, status of LGBTQ+ individuals in the modern society), but it also allowed **Hong Kong students studying in different countries to compete with one another**. Together with high quality adjudication¹ and motions which explored international topics from a HK-perspective, the Tournament was an unprecedented event in terms of scale and areas covered, and has not been done by other PASS organisations in the UK².

Although prima facie this is just another public affairs event under the notion of 'PASS' (i.e. what DUHKS has claimed to be doing), this tournament expands **beyond the original objective of 'PASS'**; apart from raising awareness on current affairs among participants and adjudicators, **the provision of detailed feedbacks** (as required in EVERY single round) from **adjudicators to competitors (and also vice versa, evaluating their adjudication quality)** have allowed the Society to participate in the inclusion of peer-review work in the English debate community in Hong Kong, which is **unprecedented among all UK PASS organisations**.

Last but not least, the participation of **experienced judges and barristers**, including Mr. Ronny Tong (Chairman of the *Hong Kong Bar Association* 1999-2001, Founder of the *Civi Party*) and Mr. Cheng Kwok Hung (Chairman of the *Hong Kong Schools Public Speaking and Debating Community*; 2015-present), have allowed the tournament to act as a platform for **people from the previous generation to conduct active exchanges** (Mr. Tong gave a talk on the issues with independence of Hong Kong) **with the new generation**. The **subtle mentorship** involved in this tournament is certainly different from what DUHKS has offered since the establishment of the PASS division. The videos of Mr. Tong's sharing and the Grand Final debate are also available on Youtube.

¹ The Chief-Adjudicators of the tournament, Brian Wong and Nicole Liu, have represented the University of Oxford and University College London respectively at the European Universities Debating Championship 2016.

² A smaller-scaled debate tournament was organised back in 2013 by the PASS organisation from the University of Cambridge, which consisted of 6 teams from different universities competing in a quasi-formal manner. Other than that, no English debate tournaments of a similar kind has been organised by any PASS societies in the United Kingdom.

Public Affairs Forum

On 21 October 2016, DUHKPASS organised its first Public Affairs Forum on the topic '*USA 2016 Presidential Election: An Unprecedented Contest*'. The 4 speakers consist of student leaders of various backgrounds, including:

- Geeks Teh - Chairperson of *Durham University Liberal Thinkers* 2015-2016
- Kezia Exley - Director of Debating of *Durham Union Society*
- George Walker - Advanced Debater of *Durham Union Society*
- Christopher Yiu - Co-Founder and Co-President of DUHKPASS

This forum differs from DUHKS's forum in the following ways:

- Conducted in English instead of Cantonese
- Targeted at all interested individuals instead of merely Hong Kong students
- Topic chosen is a global issue instead of a local Hong Kong issue
- Involved the participation of speakers from various student groups
- The format is a formal forum with 4 speakers on stage and a moderator, instead of casual discussion among participants

As a whole, we would like students of **DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES** to obtain a better understanding of **GLOBAL ISSUES**, while at the same time having a chance to acquire public speaking skills through witnessing **SPEAKERS WITH PUBLIC SPEAKING EXPERIENCE** through a formal **FORUM**.

On the contrary, the public affairs forum held by DUHKS were casual discussions among Hong Kong Students on some local issues in Hong Kong. Cantonese was the medium of the forums. No other student bodies were involved in collaborating the forums.

Public Affairs Conference

DUHKPASS successfully co-hosted a conference, titled '*The Next Ten Years of Hong Kong*' in the University of Hong Kong alongside HKPASS societies from University of Edinburgh and University of Warwick.

The themes of the conference included democratic China, the notion of regional independence and issue of cultural desert. The conference sparked an intellectual interaction between the speakers and the audiences, discussing on wider topics on a global context.

The society has established valuable relationships with various societies of different universities in the UK and Hong Kong. In addition, we have also built connection with notable guests including, Emily Lau, member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council,

Chip Tsao, a multilingual Hong Kong - based writer and Heyward Mak, an award winning director, in which she has also openly shown her appreciation towards our effort in organizing the event on Facebook.

Salon dinner

DUHKPASS has hosted its first salon dinner in the summer of 2016, it allows members of different PASS organisations to come together and discuss on current affairs and social status quo in a relaxed environment with an esteemed guest. This summer, we have invited PASS members from the University of Warwick, UCL, Edinburgh as well as Cambridge for our first Salon Dinner. Mr Jasper Tsang,GBM,JP, the 2nd President of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong and the founding Chairman of the *Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong* was our guest for this Salon Dinner. This is one of the society's initiatives as this kind of event is rarely seen in the PASS community.

More salon dinners are also being planned in progress and we look forward to inviting more interested individuals to come together and have an unique opportunity to dine with esteemed guests in an informal, thought-provoking and relaxed manner.

Social Services and Mentorship

Suicide Prevention Services

Our social services division focuses on the establishment of friendly relations within Durham. Thus instead of merely focusing on organising programs with other Hong Kong PASS societies from other universities across the U.K., we believe it is more appropriate to show increased engagements within our local community by launching programs that can benefit both the community and our students. The programs that are going to be launched aim to enable our students to not only to experience cultural exchanges with the locals, but also to get a taste of what is happening around them in a literal sense.

Besides the 'Don't Qua Luncheon' we organised with Suicide Prevention Services, Samaritans Worldwide for the dispossessed back in August, we are intending to organise two social services programs that include volunteer training program that are fully supported by Durham Community Action and Chinese cultural exchange program which runs in several Durham daycare centres. Both programs will be running throughout the 16/17 academic year, which will be launched in December and February respectively. We are also reaching out to NGOs in both Hong Kong and the U.K. for opportunities to organise one-off charity events. We aim to provide at least three volunteering or fundraising events to our members in this academic year.

Durham Law School Recruitment Work Summer 2016

DUHKPASS was invited to collaborate with the Durham Law School in the Law School's Recruitment Work in Hong Kong in Summer 2016, headed by Dr. Alex Williams (Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Durham Law School).³

The recruitment work comprised of:

- Recruitment and selection of student speakers by the student-directors of the program
- Talks and presentations at 15 international schools and educational institutes in Hong Kong.
- Detailed overview on the requirements, course structure and opportunities of studying law at Durham.
- Conducted exchanges with prospective Durham Law School applicants on various areas, including:
 - Conversion examinations (Hong Kong)

³ DUHKPASS was also contacted by the Durham University International Office in the first place to consider joining the Durham Law School for its undergraduate student recruitment works.

- Role of Durham Law School as a highly-respected research-intensive centre for public law.
- Prospective opportunities upon graduation (e.g. admission to qualification examinations, further study at other universities)

This collaboration between DUHKPASS and the Law School is unprecedented among Hong Kong student-run organisations in the United Kingdom, including DUHKS. By organising the admissions talks, DUHKPASS has actualised its unique role as an organisation aiming to incorporate social service and mentorship programs, as well as the Society's unique objective of empowering individuals-in-need to their benefits.

Mentorship for academic enrichment

Academic mentorship

Recognising the need for academic developments and assistance for junior Hong Kong students at Durham, DUHKPASS has launched an academic mentorship program tailored for first-year and second-year students. The main objective of this program is to allow experienced students, in particular those achieving academic excellence, to give back to freshers who are still at the initial stages of their academic journey at the University.

Joined by students which excel in their studies (currently second-year and third-year students), including **recipients of the Durham Law School Letter of Commendation** and **students which ranked top 10% of their year**, mentees of the program have greatly benefited from the program by allowing them to have clearer directions on study and management of their university life.

Career mentorship

DUHKPASS takes great pride in the launching of our careers mentorship program. One of the primary aims of the operation of our society is to provide as much support and guidance to our members as possible, especially on fronts that extend beyond course curriculums. As university years constitute the prime time for students to properly contemplate career options, the careers mentorship program was introduced in collaboration with Durham alumni members to best achieve our objective. This Mentorship Programme is designed to complement students' career prospect and to broaden their horizons. It aims to create supportive mentoring relationships between alumni (Mentors) and students (Mentees) to facilitate mentees' educational, social and personal growth.

In light of the issue at stake with Durham University Hong Kong Society, our stance is that this aspect of our operation is not in conflict with any running projects of the DUHKS. Although we are aware that it is in the DUHKS's interest to support their members, we strongly believe that the nature of the support they seek to provide does not necessarily align with ours. We focus more on academic and career enrichment.

Sponsorship

Since the establishment of DUHKPASS, the society has been keen to seek different sponsors in order to fund our events and consequently decrease the participation fees of our events to be increasingly affordable for students. Currently, the society has confirmed several sponsorships with several global law firms including **Allen & Overy**, **Ho & Associates** and **Baker & McKenzie**; we will be expecting more confirmation of sponsorships after further negotiation.

According to our agreement with the sponsors, DUHKPASS will promote different job opportunities to the students studying in Durham on the sponsor's behalf. This includes organising workshops and career talks with international law firms. The society strongly believes that the co-ordination between DUHKPASS and the sponsors will enhance our students employability - one important aim of the society.

History of HKPASS Organisations in the United Kingdom



History of HKPASS

First established by a group of Hong Kong students in the LSE fifteen years ago, HKPASS has seen an increasing trend throughout recent years as we hold firm to a belief that Hong Kong students should care more about the society.

Here comes a table showing which of the Top 25 universities of the United Kingdom, according to the Complete University Guide 2016, have a HKPASS, based on our research.

University	Hong Kong Society	Hong Kong PASS
DURHAM	✓	✓ (25/02/2016)
Cambridge	✓	✓
Oxford	✓	✓
London School of Economics	✓	✓
Imperial College London	✓	✓
St Andrews	✓	
Warwick	✓	✓
Lancaster	✓	✓
Exeter	✓	✓
Bath	✓	✓
Loughborough	✓	
University College London	✓	✓
Southampton	✓	✓
Bristol	✓	✓
East Anglia	✓	
York	✓	✓
Birmingham	✓	✓
Leeds	✓	
Edinburgh	✓	✓
Sussex	✓	✓
Kent	✓	
King's College London	✓	✓
Leicester	✓	
Nottingham	✓	✓

DUHKPASS believe the independent status of other PASS organisations is a solid demonstration of how actively and independently organising PASS events can successfully raise awareness on PASS issues. **Every university with adequate support and awareness, regardless if explicit or potential, should deserve to have a PASS organisation.**

DUHKPASS firmly believes that an independent PASS organisation is the most practical, effective and fruitful way to promote the notions of PASS and student-life enrichment at University level.

TO: Assembly
FROM: Alice Dee, President
RE: Election of Assembly and Committee Members

Assembly Members

The changes made last academic year to the Standing Orders provide for four open positions on Assembly. The candidates for the positions are:

Harry Cross

The candidate has provided a profile, which follows this paper. We have kept the nomination period for Assembly positions open, so you will receive information on any additional nominees on the night. During Assembly, the candidates will not hust, but rather a question and answer session will take place.

When voting, vote for 4 people. Re-open nominations will also be on the ballot.

Committee Members

You are asked to elect committee membership for the following committees:

- Governance and Grants (5 members)
- Environmental and Citizenship (6 members: 3 members of political and causes societies and 3 open)
- Academic Affairs (3 members)
- Welfare, Equality and Diversity (3 members)

The candidates and their profile are attached. We have kept the nomination period for WEDComm open, so you will receive information on any additional nominees on the night. During Assembly, the candidates will not hust, but rather a question and answer session will take place.

When voting, vote for the number of committee members provided next to the committee name above. Re-open nominations will also be on the ballot.

Nominees

Academic Affairs Committee

Menggelisha

I have been the course rep of Business and Management for 2 years, and hence I am very experienced in academic affairs and bridging the communication between students and staffs. Additionally, I obtained the highest mark of Business and Management course, and would like to contribute more to academic assembly.

Matthew Proctor

I am passionate about the student voice in all academic affairs around Durham University. I have historically served on my school district's Board of Education Strategic Planning committee, as one of three student representatives.

Adlan Raid Bin Adi Radlan

I'm currently applying to be a course rep for Law as I'm very passionate about being a voice for the student body. I want to act as a point of contact between academic staff and the students, and ensure the best possible academic experience for the freshers.

Governance & Grants Committee

Andrew Hetherington

Enthusiastic to get involved and make students aware of the impact they can have on the big decisions that the university makes. Apathy about the decisions made by the union is a massive problem that needs to be fixed. Personally interested in finance and especially the grant application process.

Shirley Chan

1. I am an international student with an unusual background.
2. I study law and part of the Pro Bono Society.
3. I have good communication skills and proficient in numerous languages.
4. I am eager to take on this challenge and to learn more about the Union.

Meghan Hosch

I have a range of experience with college and university-wide expenditures and budgeting. My role as the Finance and Sponsorship Officer of the LGBT+a and my role as Communities Officer in Hatfield College ensures that I have taken part in the process of budgeting on a large scale and on committees that grant and allocate money to large projects including but not limited to starting new clubs, societies, and representative groups.

Tim Lazenby

As a mature student with 30 + years in business before coming to Durham I feel my mature and stable world view would be distinct bonus to an already thriving and articulate DSU. I would relish the opportunity to help in this role.

Jai Khajuria

I have held multiple leadership roles during my time in school. I believe I am decent at fairly and judiciously allocating resources.

Ruxandra Steriu

Why me? I want to make sure the students' voice is heard and that ethical and democratic processes are being implemented. As an intern at the Ministry of Finance, I gained experience in reviewing

policies, procedures and proposed motions. I am a passionate hard-working member of the team, I take initiative, I am spontaneous and I am more than used to working under pressure.

Christina Dahl Andersen

I would love to be involved in the process of reviewing policies and grant allocations to student groups. I think it could give me a great insight, if I later want to enter politics. Besides I have always liked to look at different views and then discuss the best approach or solution.

Maciej Matuszewski

I am an experienced candidate, having held a seat on the Governance Committee in my first year at Durham and a seat on the Grants Committee in my second year. During my undergraduate at Imperial College, I was Chair of the Media Management Group and sat on the Union Council.

Environmental & Citizenship Committee

Leonie Lynch

As a student that has experienced her first year in Stockton-on-tees, I too often have come across negative interactions with permanent residents which really boosts my desire to improve the relationship between both communities. I would also feel very passionate about raising awareness on ethical and environmental issues, even about matters as simple as waste sorting initiatives.

Sarah Ward

Primarily, I believe I should be elected because I have a genuine passion for the environment and a desire to make a positive social impact.

As a scientist, my problem solving skillset ensures a logical approach to issues, alongside strong communication skills - key to participating in a committee.

Political & Causes Society member

Katherine Condon

I should be elected to sit on the Environmental and Citizenship Committee because I care deeply about the university's relationship with Durham and the wider North Eastern community, and because I hope to further the sustainable development of our university in a way that positively impacts students and the environment.

Welfare, Equality & Diversity Committee

James Smith

If elected I am to campaign for:

- Free and accessible sanitary products for any student who goes through menstruation.
- A freeze and if possible a cap on rising university fees for home and international students.
- More support for lower income students including the possibility of fee's reductions.
- Accessible gender-neutral toilets
- Gender diversity and inclusivity including the rights and representation of marginalised genders.
- Wider engagement and representation of Post Graduate students.
- Intersex Awareness and Education.
- Representation and inclusion of Students with Caring Responsibilities.
- Free self-defence classes for all students.
- Greater health awareness and encouraging students of the importance of getting their Hep B Meningitis ACWY Vaccines.
- Sufficient lighting along Durham's riverside.

In addition holding regular student drop in sessions throughout the year, in order to help provide more opportunities for students to feedback and help make sure their voices are being heard.

Kirstin Stevely

As president of Heads Up Durham, the university's first mental health awareness society, I believe that I should hold a position on Assembly. According to the NUS, 78% of students reported struggling

with mental health issues, this highlights how significant mental health is for the student body and why mental health awareness should be represented.

Rosa Tallack

I'm the Nightline Director, involved in college welfare and have spent a year on WEDComm; all experiences that have given me invaluable insight into issues students face. I've seen the great potential that WEDComm has to enact real change for students and I'd love to continue being part of that.

Open Places

Harry Cross

I have fought campaigns on Living Wage, college rents and NUS membership at Durham. These have been effective because they twinned collective action with serious engagement with union and university structures. I want to continue this as an Assembly member. I also want to be a postgraduate voice in Assembly.