

# DURHAM SU ASSEMBLY

There will be a meeting of Assembly at 1600 on Thursday 9 December 2021.

Please try to join the meeting from 1545, to allow for connectivity tests, for a prompt start at 1600.

## AGENDA

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING (CHAIR, 5 MINUTES)

To receive apologies, conflicts of interest, notification of any other urgent business not on the agenda.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS ON 25 NOVEMBER 2021 (CHAIR, 5 MINUTES) UA/2122/09

To accept the minutes as an accurate record of the previous meetings.

### 3. DEMOCRACY REVIEW UPDATE (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, 15 MINUTES)

#### *Routine business items*

### 4. BOARD REPORT (CHIEF EXECUTIVE, 5 MINUTES) UA/2122/10

To receive an update report from the Board of Trustees.

### 5. OFFICER QUESTIONS (OFFICERS, 15 MINUTES)

To receive questions to on priorities of the SU officer team.

### 6. COMMITTEE QUESTIONS (COMMITTEE CHAIRS, 15 MINUTES)

To receive questions to committee chairs on activities since the last meeting.

### 7. ASSOCIATION QUESTIONS (ASSOCIATION CHAIRS, 15 MINUTES)

To receive questions to association chairs on activities since the last meeting.

*\*A comfort break of 10 minutes will be held, before returning to discussion items.*

### 8. CHAIRS ELECTION (CHAIR, 5 MINUTES)

To receive the results of the chairs election voted for by email circulation.

### 9. OPEN PLACES ELECTION (CHAIR, 5 MINUTES)

To receive the results of the open places election voted for by email circulation.

### 10. GOVERNANCE AND GRANTS ELECTION (CHAIR, 5 MINUTES)

To receive the results of the open places election voted for by email circulation.

*Items for ratification:*

**11. REVIEW AND RATIFICATION OF EXPIRED POLICY (CHAIR, 30 MINUTES) UA/2122/11**

To review and ratify approved policy which are now expired or due to expire.

***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 SU governance account: [dsu.governance@durham.ac.uk](mailto:dsu.governance@durham.ac.uk) at least 2 days in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.***

# DURHAM SU ASSEMBLY

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING 25 November 2021

Virtual Meeting, Zoom

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

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

ST explained that Assembly members had been circulated manifestos and a ballot paper to vote in the Assembly open place elections, which should be sent ahead of the access break and the results will be announced after the break.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS ON 3 JUNE 2021 AND 24 JUNE 2021

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

### 3. RATIFICATION OF DECISIONS FROM THE LAST ASSEMBLY MEETING

**Assembly members ratified Democracy Review Part 3: Membership and Purpose and Honorary Life Membership decisions from the last Assembly meeting.**

#### *Routine business items*

### 4. BOARD REPORT

The Board of Trustees met on 5 October 2021. Graeme Osborn was appointed the Chair of the Board, and Seun Twins was appointed Vice-Chair of the Board. The trustees confirmed the terms of reference for two committees, to oversee Durham SU's people and culture work, and performance and delivery. The Finance Report confirmed Durham SU had ended the year with a small surplus, reflecting difficult choices made to control costs after a substantial deficit in previous year. The trustees agreed a framework for the delegation of their authority, and the powers that committees and staff could exercise on their behalf. A discussion on strategic development helped the trustees to plan how they wished to develop Durham SU's work from 2022 onwards.

Since the meeting of the trustees, two students have been elected to sit on the Board: Denis Antor, and Christian Meadows.

**Assembly members ratified Peter Robertson as the Returning Officer.**

### 5. OFFICER UPDATES

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

Seun Twins, SU President  
Charlie Procter, Undergraduate Academic Officer  
Declan Merrington, Postgraduate Academic Officer

Jack Ballingham, Opportunities Officer  
Jonah Graham, Welfare and Liberation Officer

## 6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

JCR PresComm  
MCR PresComm  
Union Rep Committee  
DUCK

(Apologies from Student Groups Committee and Academic Affairs Committee)

Governance and Grants Committee Chair had not yet been elected at this meeting.

## 7. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

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

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

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

## 8. CHAIRS ELECTION

ST explained that there had been no nominations for Chair so this would roll over to next meeting.

ST will Chair Assembly until someone is elected.

## 9. OPEN PLACES ELECTION

ST announced the results of the Open Places elections:

Open Position: Laura Curran  
Postgraduate Position: Ansh Bhatnagar  
Women/Carer Position – Maddie Hourigan

There were no nominations for the first year undergraduate position so this will roll over to the next meeting.

## 10. GOVERNANCE AND GRANTS ELECTION

ST announced the results of the Governance and Grants Committee elections:

Governance and Grants Open Position: Oliver Jervis

There was only one nomination for the Governance and Grants open position and no nominations for the Governance and Grants student group's positions so these will roll over to the next meeting.

## **11. HARM REDUCTION POLICY AND PRACTICES**

Sophie Hofels presented the motion and said that Durham University needs to update their current drugs policy in order to prevent more harm being caused to its students. Two in five university students in the UK are regular drug users, with 56% having admitted to trying them at least once during their studies. The current 'no tolerance' drug policy at the university has tremendous negative effects on students. Students don't have easy access to information on how to sensibly consume drugs and on what to do in an emergency, they don't have drug testing kits accessible and are reluctant to seek help in emergency situations because of the fear of punishment.

There were no speeches against the motion.

ST moves to a vote.

**The motion passes.**

TO: Assembly  
FROM: Seun Twins  
RE: Durham SU Board of Trustees Report  
DATE: 9 December 2021

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## **DURHAM SU BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT TO ASSEMBLY**

The Board of Trustees met on 30 November 2021, and the following points were considered.

- The Durham SU auditors made their report, and confirmed the financial integrity and sustainability of the students' union. The trustees also considered a first draft of their annual report.
- The Chief Executive's Report, which gave some wider context to the recent press reports about Durham University's support of student sex workers, and both the unfortunate and the malicious misrepresentations of Durham SU's student support work.
- The first quarter's finance report.
- A refreshed Strategic Risk Register.
- A workshop which reflected on how other students' unions address the development of strategy.

The trustees also received reports from the People and Culture Committee, which met on 10 November 2021, and the Performance and Delivery Committee, which met on 11 November 2021, and from the meetings of Assembly on 11 November 2021 and 25 November 2021.

TO: Assembly

FROM: Governance and Grants Committee

RE: Review and ratification of expired policies

DATE: 9 December 2021

### Expired Policies as of 9/12/21

Full library of current policy is live here ([Policy hub @ Durham SU](#)). Expired policies will be moved to the “old policies” section, here ([Policy archive @ Durham SU](#)).

Governance and Grants Committee have recommended the below policies for re-ratification:

Policy	Date Expired
<a href="#">UCU Anti-Casualisation</a>	4/12/20
<a href="#">International Tuition Fees</a>	12/3/21
<a href="#">Mo Mowlam</a>	19/6/21
<a href="#">Support for Direct Action Against Rising Accommodation Fees</a>	31/1/21
<a href="#">Durham University is Institutionally Disablist</a>	3/12/21
<a href="#">Fight the Housing Rush</a>	3/12/21
<a href="#">Support Access to Free, Safe and Legal Abortions</a>	19/6/21
<a href="#">Lobby Landlords to Accept International Guarantors</a>	7/11/21
<a href="#">Declaration of Climate Emergency</a>	7/11/21

Governance and Grants have recommended the below policies be expired and have provided a reasoning for each:

Policy	Date Expired	Reasoning
Tyne and Wear Citizens	8/11/20	Durham SU is now affiliated to Tyne and Wear Citizens
JCR Management and Leadership Training	12/3/21	This training is now in place (President's Residential)
Procedural Motions	8/11/20	Procedural motions now in Standing Orders
Association Elections for All	7/11/21	Amendments to Standing Order G13 have been carried out
Supporting the Fight for Marriage Equality In Northern Ireland	31/1/21	Marriage Equality in Northern Ireland fully achieved
Association Elections	12/3/21	Amendment to Standing Order G have been carried out
Association Ratification	12/3/21	Constitutions for Associations have been approved
Election Expenses	4/12/20	Completed and working group on resolves 3 sat, made recommendations, and dissolved again

Support of the Associations	4/12/20	Completed, and subsequently was superseded by other changes to the standing orders
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