

# DURHAM SU ASSEMBLY

There will be a meeting of Assembly at 1800 on Thursday, 9 March, The Learning Lounge (C05a), Dunelm House

Please try and arrive at the meeting from 1745, for a prompt start at 1800.

## AGENDA

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

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

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS ON 9 FEBRUARY 2023 (CHAIR, 5 MINUTES) UA/2223/26

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

*Routine business items*

### 3. BOARD REPORT (PRESIDENT, 5 MINUTES) UA/2223/27

To receive an update report from the Board of Trustees.

### 4. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS (CHAIR, 5 MINUTES) UA/2223/28

To ratify nominations for Durham Students' Union Honorary Life Memberships.

### 5. OFFICER UPDATES (OFFICERS, 10 MINUTES)

To receive an update on team priorities from the SU officer team.

### 6. COMMITTEE UPDATES (COMMITTEE CHAIRS, 10 MINUTES)

To receive updates from committee chairs on activities since the last meeting.

### 7. ASSOCIATION UPDATES (ASSOCIATION CHAIRS, 10 MINUTES)

To receive updates from association chairs on activities since the last meeting.

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

*Items for discussion:*

### 8. DURHAM UNIVERSITY ANTI-SPIKING POLICY: DISCUSSION (WELFARE AND LIBERATION OFFICER, 45 MINUTES) UA/2223/29

To discuss what a university anti-spiking policy should consist of and resolve to set up a task and finish group to continue further consultation into this issue.

**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 before the meeting to make arrangements.**

# DURHAM SU ASSEMBLY

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING 9 February 2023

Fonteyn Ballroom, Dunelm House

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

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

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS ON 8 DECEMBER 2022 AND MATTERS ARISING

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

*Routine business items*

### 3. ASSEMBLY PROCEDURES COMMITTEE ELECTION

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

Jon Chan  
Theo Stubbs  
Toby Saunders

### 4. TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT

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

### 5. OFFICER UPDATES

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

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

### 6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

**NOTED:** updates from Committees:

JCR PresComm  
Academic Affairs Committee  
SU Rep Committee

Apologies: DUCK, Student Groups Committee, MCR PresComm

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

## 7. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

**NOTED:** updates from Associations:

International, Students' Association

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

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

*Items for discussion:*

## 8. NUS ANTISEMITISM UPDATE REPORT

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

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

## 9. DURHAM SU CODE OF CONDUCT

**APPROVED:** the NUS Policy submission for 2023 National Conference.

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

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

There were no speeches against the amendments.

AK moves to a vote on amendments.

THE AMENDMENTS PASSED.

AK moves back to debate the policy.

There were no speeches against the policy.

THE POLICY PASSED.

## 10. PALATINATE UPDATE

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

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

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

There were no speeches opposing the group.

AK moves to vote.

**Assembly resolved to set up the task and finish group.**

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

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**RECEIVED:** any other business not noted on the agenda.

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

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

Voting Record of Assembly Members

	<b>Nuclear Weapons Position</b>	<b>Code of Conduct</b>
UG Academic Officer	For	For
President	For	For
International Student's Association	For	For
Open Place Rep	For	For
JCR Prescomm	For	For
Stephenson College Rep	For	For
University College Rep	For	For
Open Place Rep	For	For
Hild and Bede College Rep	For	For
John Snow College Rep	For	For
Opportunities Officer	For	For
St John's College Rep	For	For
St Cuthbert's Society Rep	For	For
UG Arts and Humanities Rep	For	For
Welfare and Liberation Officer	For	For
Trevelyan College Rep	For	For
Academic Affairs Committee	For	For

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

TO: Assembly  
FROM: Joe McGarry  
RE: Durham SU Board of Trustees Report  
DATE: 9 March 2023

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

The Board of Trustees met on 1 March and the following points were considered:

- The reports from Sustainability and Risk Committee of 7 February 2023 and People and Governance Committee of 8 February 2023.
- An agreement for Junior Common Rooms to undertake elections on behalf of Durham SU. The Trustees approved a framework under which external organisations are able to undertake democratic processes on behalf of Durham SU.
- The Trustees approved the near-term priorities within the Durham SU strategy.
- The Trustees approved a Code of Conduct for Trustees and the Annual Report for 2021/2022.

Following ratification by Assembly, Rachel Taylor was appointed as a lay Trustee to the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees had previously agreed, that the vacant PG Officer trustee vacancy would be filled by the Postgraduate Academic Officer-elect, such that candidates were told that they would take office as trustee in time for the March meeting, and take up the sabbatical officer position from July. The PG Academic Officer elect, Freddy Fossey-Warren was appointed to the Board of Trustees.

TO: Assembly  
FROM: Opportunities Officer  
RE: Honorary Life Memberships  
DATE: 9 March 2023

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### **Honorary Life Memberships 2022-23**

Honorary Life Memberships (HLMs) recognise the input to, and impact of, an individual on student life or the communities of Durham and reflect Assembly's thanks for their contributions.

Awarded to an individual who has demonstrated contribution in both of the following areas:

1. Nominees will have consistently embodied Durham SU's values and purpose.
2. Nominees will have made outstanding and continuing positive contributions to student and community life, locally, nationally, or internationally, either through volunteer roles or employment.

As a guide, this may include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Work which explicitly improves the lives of students or the community.
- Work which champions the voices of students or the community on specific issues.
- Work which creates a lasting impact for students or the community.
- Work which tackles an urgent issue facing students or the community.
- Work which goes notably above and beyond expectations.
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Public nominations were open to all members and a list has been presented in Appendix 1 to Assembly.

In line with the above criteria, Assembly is asked to ratify the nominations and HLMs will be awarded at the Annual Awards.

## Appendix 1

Nominee Name	Criteria Nomination
<p><i>Fin Brown</i></p>	<p>Fin has been an excellent treasurer and leader at DU Spaceflight, engaging dozens of students and teaching them about space engineering which is pivotal in the UK's new spaceflight era. His outreach work and the sponsorships he has gained for the society has been excellent.</p> <p>He has worked very hard to get our small and new society sponsors to ensure we can all do the projects we want to without need to worry about money.</p> <p>Fin has made outstanding and continuing positive contributions to student and community life, both locally and nationally by allowing and fostering students to join the highly competitive space industry.</p> <p>Finlay has been instrumental in improving the lives of students through his engagement with such student space initiatives. He has been a vocal advocate for the voices of students in this highly competitive field and has worked tirelessly to create a lasting impact on the student space community.</p> <p>In addition to his contributions to student space initiatives, Fin has also been a strong advocate for engaging students in STEM fields from a young age. He believes in providing students with the tools and resources they need to succeed in these fields and has worked to create opportunities for students to get involved and gain hands-on experience.</p> <p>Finlay's work goes notably above and beyond expectations. He is not only dedicated to improving the lives of students, but also to helping them get the most out of their student union, something he is passionate about and would like to get more involved with in the future. Fin is an individual who is dedicated to fostering relationships and improving the social skills of the students in his society, and his impact is felt by all who have had the privilege of working with him.</p> <p>I strongly believe that Fin is a deserving candidate for this award, and I am confident that his contributions to student and community life will continue to have a positive impact for years to come.</p> <p>Fin has been an excellent treasurer in his role, consistently demonstrating exceptional leadership and a strong commitment to the success of society. He has skilfully managed society's finances, ensuring that resources are allocated to maximise their impact. He has also been proactive in seeking new revenue streams, securing grants and sponsorships that have enabled the society to expand its reach and achieve its goals.</p> <p>Fin has made outstanding contributions to the Durham University Spaceflight Society, securing sponsorship from high profile organisations to further the education of students interested in space. With the resources that he has acquired, the society has been able to push the boundaries with more</p>

	<p>innovative space related projects. This work has been completely voluntary.</p>
<i>Benedict Mensah</i>	<p>Throughout his time at Durham, Ben has had a significant impact on developing structures of student wellbeing and support, being a truly indispensable member of Durham Nightline. For the last year, in his role as Co-ordinator, he has gone truly above and beyond all expectations. He has immersed himself entirely, developing and improving the impact that the organisation is able to make, in ways that are lasting and meaningful. He has been inseparable from the success of our termly training weekends, which teach skills of mental health and active listening to hundreds of people, each academic year. In this sense, his impact has seen countless students better equipped to support themselves, and their wider student community, for years to come.</p> <p>He has also been heavily involved in designing and implementing training workshops for student groups and Freshers Rep teams, which, as of 2022, saw a 100% uptake. This meant that each college received specialised, individual, and gratuitous training in how to best support new students in their transition into university life.</p> <p>Ben has sunk countless hours into improving all faculties of Nightline, in even designing and implementing new tech systems which we now depend upon heavily in offering our phone line, and instant message service throughout term-time nights. He has demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and an ability to connect with others in a way that is truly admirable. He has been an excellent leader, and a source of genuine empathy throughout the difficult work that we do. For this, among many other reasons, he will be sorely missed when he graduates. For someone to do all of this, with no concept of personal gain or reward, is truly remarkable.</p>
<i>Aditya Lathar</i>	<p>Aditya for his time as Postgraduate Academic Officer at the Students Union. As an officer he contributed greatly to the student community, firstly energising students in both his presidential and postgraduate election campaigns and for providing a fresh perspective inside the union.</p>
<i>Simon Stevenson</i>	<p>Simon has been a massive ambassador for student wellbeing. Since the first week of the first term of starting at Durham University he has been actively involved in Associations and societies. In his first year he started in MATSA (Mature Students Association), as welfare officer. For two terms was involved in 'It's Not Okay' as Welfare officer and Co-President. During second year he was involved in MATSA and SWDA (Students with Disabilities Association) as Welfare Officer. Over the first year and second year, Simon was involved Estranged students, working closely with the founder to help estrange students navigate accessing help within university. Over the last years he has been heavily involved in SwDA, taking on Co-President last year and making the tough decision to relaunch SwDA a fresh this year due to various issues. This year with his Co-President they have successfully relaunched</p>



	<p>SwDA with greater engagement than he has previously seen, especially on social media.</p> <p>Simon has also been heavily involved with Nightline, having his first public committee role as training officer in his second term of second year. Since then, he has been training officer again, this time during COVID, during which he re-wrote the training manual. After that he became Nightline's last Director, helping navigate Nightline back into their office. During his time as director, he successfully introduced a new leadership model for Durham Nightline of Co-ordinators (used in other Nightlines), meaning the responsibility of the service is spread between 3 Co-ordinators. He then came back this year for a term and a half to build and run a training model. During his time in Nightline, he has also worked heavily on volunteer engagement and welfare, has introduced new roles into the committee and challenged many ways which Nightline operate to ensure that they are operating in the most effective way. Outside of Associations and societies Simon was one of the first active bystander facilitators, a role which he kept doing through COVID.</p>
<p><i>Sophie Whitfield</i></p>	<p>Sophie contributes to multiple projects that better the community. She is the president and was previously the treasurer of the Chinese Tea Art Society which teaches students important cultural knowledge and encourages acceptance of non-westernised cultural practices while providing a friendly and caring environment for students. Under her leadership, the society has assisted with both Durham County Council's 2023 Lunar New Year Celebrations and the 2022 Centre for Foreign Language Studies' Chinese Corner Event. Students and members of the wider community have been introduced to a cultural practice with a long history that they might otherwise never have heard of. Her dedication to inter-cultural communication within Durham is self-evident.</p> <p>She has also recently set up a DUSVO volunteering project in partnership with Wikimedia UK aimed at encouraging students to use their specialist knowledge to edit Wikipedia articles and make knowledge accessible to everyone. This project is particularly focused on knowledge surrounding Northeast England which has historically been under-represented and is not familiar to many students.</p> <p>In addition to these projects, Sophie is an active member of the Effective Altruism community in Durham, acting as Red Team Coordinator and regularly attending and contributing to talks. She has also found time to fulfil the role of Student Representative on the Theology Department's Education Committee and achieved a Bronze volunteering award for her contributions to numerous DUSVO projects.</p> <p>Despite taking on numerous projects, Sophie continues to excel. Her organisation skills and fierce determination mean that she can make a strong positive impact across the community and consistently exceed expectations.</p>

TO: Assembly

FROM: Welfare and Liberation Officer

RE: Anti-Spiking Policy : Discussion

DATE: 9 March 2023

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## Background

Spiking has been a prevalent issue, both within Universities and at large, for numerous years. Most of the conversations have historically focused on drink spiking. More recently, needle spiking has become more prevalent since the increased incidence of spiking from 2021. Either method, drink spiking or needle spiking, is carried out without knowledge or consent from the victim/survivor, and thus makes them more susceptible and vulnerable to different forms of harm, including sexual misconduct and violence. Thus, various communities and bodies across the board, such as students, Universities, charities, and government working groups to name a few, have committed to challenging spiking to various extents.

Universities have been identified as a particular space where spiking needs to be stamped out.<sup>1</sup> Durham is no exception to this. Within the first few weeks of the 2021/22 academic year, students reported at least 167 cases of drink spiking, with Jimmy Allen's being highlighted as the location with the highest number of suspected incidents.<sup>2</sup> The local and national concerns around spiking prompted students to organise boycotts of nightclubs and other drinking venues as a form of protest, which Durham students participated in under the Durham Night In Boycott on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021.<sup>3</sup> Since then, the University has taken more action to combat spiking, such as having regular Multi-Agency Group considering spiking, renewing its commitment to providing colleges with £10,000 worth of anti-spiking equipment and resources this year, and putting information about spiking on Report + Support.<sup>4</sup>

The recent conversations and discourse surrounding spiking and its responses have instigated more action than ever when it comes to combatting the issue at hand. Even so, we cannot afford to shy away from the fact that more work needs to be done to challenge spiking at Universities, and that includes the University committing to anti-spiking in the long term.

## Assembly is asked to discuss

I am asking Assembly to discuss what a University anti-spiking policy should consist of, as a means to springboard further consultation into this issue via a Task & Finish Group.

As alluded to above, the work done so far by the University and related partners on responding to anti-spiking has had a mostly year-on-year approach. Though many of these initiatives have been well received, such as the £10,000 funding for anti-spiking resources in Colleges, there is currently no long-term approach within the University to tackling spiking.

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<sup>1</sup> Spiking of university students to be tackled: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spiking-of-university-students-to-be-tackled>

<sup>2</sup> Over 167 suspected cases of spiking reported in Durham in two weeks: <https://www.palatiniate.org.uk/over-167-suspected-cases-of-spiking-reported-in-durham-in-two-weeks/>

<sup>3</sup> Durham Night In: <https://www.instagram.com/durhamnightin/>

<sup>4</sup> Report + Support: <https://reportandsupport.durham.ac.uk/>

Adopting a long-term approach to anti-spiking, which is embedded within University processes, would demonstrate a lasting commitment on the issue, as well as provide further means for holding the University to account. Moreover, it would also align with the fact that spiking has been, and continues to be, a long-term issue that many people face.

Such a policy would require substantive and meaningful student representation. As students seek action from the University on anti-spiking, any impacts of a University Policy must be felt within the student experience, in a way that students believe to be necessary.

Therefore, I am asking Assembly to discuss what a University anti-spiking policy can look like. Some prompt questions to help guide this discussion are as follows:

- What practices and procedures are you already aware of within University spaces?
- What good practice are you aware of elsewhere?
- How would you like to see the University commit to anti-spiking, both year-on-year and in the long term?
- Which stakeholders/groups of people should the University work with to make these ideas come to fruition?
- Which groups of students should be further consulted on this policy, in addition to any broader consultation with the wider student population?
- Does anything else come to mind with regards to prevention, intervention, reporting cases, and supporting victims/survivors?

### **Assembly is asked to resolve**

To set up a Task & Finish Group to:

- Conduct consultation with students on what a University Anti-Spiking Policy would consist of.
- Present any findings on the final Assembly of the 2022/23 academic year, at the very latest.
- Work with the outgoing and incoming Welfare and Liberation Officers to discuss how to present this information to key University stakeholders.