

Durham Students' Union Assembly Agenda

Tuesday, 6 December 2016– 19:00, CG93

Chair: Andy Corkhill

Observing: Christine Stretesky (Director of Governance and Compliance), Gary Hughes (Chief Executive), Georgina Lambert (Marketing Manager), Mike Potter (Campaigns Coordinator), Shelley McCormack (Director of Engagement).

Apologies: Kieran Laurie, Stella Alexandrova, Craig Bateman.

Welcome

Andy Corkhill welcomed Assembly members to the meeting.

Apologies for absence and Conflicts of interest

The Chair announced that Kieran Laurie, Stella Alexandrova and Craig Bateman have submitted apologies. James Creer declared a conflict of interest as President of the applicant Applied Psychology Society, George Walker declared a conflict of interest as an exec member of the applicant Durham for Accessible Education Society and Anna Greenall declared a conflict of interest as President of the applicant Marxist Society.

Minutes of the last meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2016 were approved.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016 were approved.

NUS Delegates Q & A

The NUS Delegates were asked 3 pre-submitted questions.

Annual Policy Review

The Chair of Governance and Grants Committee explained that policies lapse after 2 years. Governance and Grants Committee have reviewed the policies and made recommendations and are now asking Assembly to approve these recommendations.

Harry Cross questioned whether the policies would return to Assembly if amended. Charles Walker confirmed that they would.

Andy Corkhill asked Assembly to vote on the motion.

30 members voted to approve the recommendations.

0 members voted against the recommendations.

1 member abstained from voting.

Update on Officer Work

Alice Dee gave an update on her work as President. James Creer asked for more information regarding the support that the Union will be offering for students transitioning from Queens Campus. Alice Dee explained that this had been difficult as the University has not made all the key decisions that will influence how the Union will support these students but it will be a priority next term.

Lisa Whiting gave an update on her work as Academic Affairs Officer. David Evans asked if Lisa could come to MCR Presidents Committee to give an update, Lisa stated she will. William Waters asked what course reps can do if they are not being supported by their department, Lisa asked William to ask the student to get in touch with her and she would get in touch with the department to log issues and lobby them to better support reps. Harry Cross asked Lisa if she knew from the Vice Chancellor what other universities are doing nationally regarding TEF. Lisa explained that she had not heard anything explicit but feels like universities may not be sharing information due to competition relating to fees. Alice Dee explained that the Vice Chancellor had spoken to other members of the Russell Group.

Kara-Jane Senior gave an update on her work as Activities Officer. Megan Kroll asked whether the questions in the participation and impact survey were general or specific to extra-curricular activities within Durham (eg: Students' Union/Team Durham/Colleges). Kara explained that the survey focusses more on the individual student and they can discuss being involved in any extra-curricular activity.

Jo Gower gave an update on their work as Community Officer. There were no questions.

Adam Jarvis gave an update on his work as Development Officer and also explained about his involvement with the Maiden Castle redevelopment. Megan Croll questioned a comment Adam made regarding it being positive that the redevelopment was supportive of college sports as JCR Presidents' Committee have found it extremely focussed on elite sports. Adam agreed it could be better but it has improved due to the work of the group they both sit on. A student asked whether the additional students from Queen's Campus had been factored into the working group, Adam explained that this was predominantly the reason for the redevelopment.

New Societies Ratification

Thea Burton, the Chair of Societies Committee explained that Societies Committee had proposed to ratify the following societies:

Research

English Law Students Association

Ale appreciation

Parkour Freerunning Society

Queen's Campus Trading and Investment Society (if they remove Queen's Campus from their name)

Field Game Society

The Definite Article

Marxist Society

Gin Society

Informal Political Discussion Society

Buddhist Society

Polish Society

Rugby Supporters Society

Magic

Durham for Accessible Education

Thea that Societies Committee had proposed to reject the following societies:

Applied Psychology Society.

The President of the Law Society spoke against Societies Committees recommendation that the English Law Students Association (ELSA) be ratified on the grounds that it was a duplication of Law Society and could hinder the group receiving sponsorship. Kara-Jane Senior explained that ELSA had existed up as Students' Union society until June when they did not re-ratify in time. There was a discussion regarding cost and membership benefits of each society.

James Creer spoke against the rejection of the Applied Psychology Society as the course was only based at Queen's Campus. Thea explained that the Union regulations state that societies need to be sustainable in the long term which would not be possible when the course stops upon moving to Durham City. James Creer stated that he believed that very few societies operated across both campuses in practice and therefore Applied Psychology should not simply be a subcommittee of the Psychology Society.

Gina Cuomo explained that SwDA members had been confused regarding the use of the term accessible as SwDA members had thought it related to physical accessibility in the name of Durham for Accessible Education.

Tom Harwood questioned ratifying the Marxist Society as it was extremely politically left and questioned whether Assembly would ratify a society that was extremely politically right. Tom explained that previously Assembly had rejected a male human rights society and Students for Britain. Anna Greenall stated that Marxism was a legitimate political belief and does not have dissimilar beliefs to the current Free Market Society.

Andy Corkhill explained that Assembly would vote on Societies Committees recommendations except for ELSA, Applied Psychology, Durham for Accessible Education and Marxist Societies in one go.

29 members voted to approve the recommendations.

1 member voted against the recommendations.

0 members abstained from voting.

The following Societies were ratified as Students' Union Societies:

Research

Ale appreciation

Parkour Freerunning Society

Trading and Investment Society

Field Game Society

The Definite Article

Gin Society

Informal Political Discussion Society

Buddhist Society

Polish Society

Rugby Supporters Society

Magic

Assembly then voted on the ratification of ELSA.

11 members voted to approve the group.

15 members voted to not ratify the group.

3 members abstained from voting.

English Law Students Association was therefore not ratified as a Students' Union Society.

Assembly then voted on the ratification of Applied Psychology Society:

21 members voted to approve the group.

5 members voted to not ratify the group.

2 members abstained from voting.

Applied Psychology was ratified as a Students' Union Society.

Assembly then voted on the ratification of Marxist Society.

21 members voted to approve the group.

4 members voted to not ratify the group.

5 members abstained from voting.

Marxist Society was ratified as a Students' Union Society.

Two members of the exec for Durham for Accessible Education stated they are happy to change their name to reflect financial accessibility.

Assembly then voted on the ratification of Durham for Accessible Education.

30 members voted to approve the group.

0 members voted to not ratify the group.

0 members abstained from voting.

Durham for Accessible Education was ratified as a Students' Union Society.

Ratification of Grants

Charles Walker explained that Governance and Grants Committee had received 85 applications and that they had made recommendations to allocate ordinary grants.

Assembly unanimously voted to accept Governance and Grants Committees recommendations.

Proposed Officer Restructure

Alice Dee explained the rationale for the report. Andy Corkhill asked if there were any points of clarity. James Creer asked when the recommendations would take effect; Alice Dee explained that if it is approved by the Trustee Board and by the University that the recommendations would take place for the elections held in February 2017.

Harry Cross asked why the proposal for a postgraduate role only covered an academic remit and whether this would cover workers' rights. Alice explained that the whole officer team would be involved in that but it would be led by policy and the priorities of the officers. A student asked which Academic Officer would do the work that was mandated in the TEF policy last Assembly, Alice explained that both officers would work on it.

David Evans said that although MCR Presidents do not explicitly work on academic issues, he asked should the postgraduate academic officer be the lead contact for middle common rooms. Alice stated that as common rooms are not academic bodies, it was best to remain with the President but stated that middle common room presidents will be a key stakeholder group for the Postgraduate Academic Officer.

David Evans questioned the start time of a Postgraduate Officer and when they would start. The Union's Chief Executive, Gary Hughes explained that the Chief Executive legally can negotiate a start time with the post holder.

Andy Corkhill asked if any members of Assembly wished to speak against the proposal. Adam Jarvis stated he believed that Student Officers should directly represent all students and the Postgraduate Academic Officer would only represent around 21% of the student population. Lisa Whiting responded saying that despite having two of her objectives being postgraduate related, this would not necessarily always be the case. Megan Croll stated that postgraduate students have very different needs to undergraduate students and only a postgraduate would understand these. Thom Addinall-Biddulph stated that the Union previously had part time officers and the last one to be removed was the postgraduate officer and whilst it was great that Lisa was choosing to focus on Postgraduate issues, a solution needed to be sustainable.

William Waters stated that some students did not like the term 'liberation' in the title of Welfare and Liberation Officer and would prefer 'equality'. Ted Lavis Coward stated that service users of the associations have a preference for the term liberation. Harry Cross queried if only members of liberation groups could vote for the Welfare and Liberation Officer. Christine Stretesky explained that the education act states that all members of a Students' Union have to be eligible to vote in an election for a Student Officer.

29 members voted to approve the recommendations of the report.

1 members voted to reject the recommendations of the report.

0 members abstained from voting.

Nightline Update

Jo Gower explained that Nightline would be moving to the Union in January. Rosa Tallack stated that they felt they would be better supported by the Union than the DSO framework.

Any Other Business

William Waters asked Jo Gower whether the structure of Environmental and Citizenship Committee should change as there were more candidates than places for the open places but only one for the Political and Causes Societies. Jo stated that she was open to change and that Will should speak to a member of Governance Staff or submit a motion to make this change for future years.

Meghan Hosch asked Alice Dee for an update on the post applicant visit day. Alice stated that JCR Presidents were leading on this.

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| # | Andy Corkhill | Chair | |
| 1 | Alice Dee | President | |
| 2 | Kara-Jane Senior | Activities | |
| 3 | Lisa Whiting | Academic Affairs | |
| 4 | Adam Jarvis | Development | |
| 5 | Jo Gower | Community | |
| 6 | Adeline Chow | ISA | |
| 7 | Ted Coward | LGBT+a | |
| 8 | Courtney Cliffe | SwDA | |
| 9 | James Colville | Mature Students Association | |
| 10 | Iris Lang | People of Colour Association | |
| 11 | Anna Greenall | Academic Affairs Committee | |
| 12 | Thea Burton | Societies Committee | |
| 13 | Tom Channon for Megan Croll | JCR PresComm | |
| 14 | Bethany Fleming | DUCK Exec | |
| 15 | David Evans for Abi Sted | MCR PresComm | |
| 16 | Charles Walker | Governance and Grants | |
| 17 | VACANT | Environmental & Citizenship | |
| 18 | Rosa Tallack | WEDComm | |
| 19 | Craig Bateman | Media Rep | |
| 20 | Megan Croll for Mitchell Langcaster-James | St. Cuthberts | |
| 21 | Thomas Addinall-Biddulph | Ustinov | |
| 22 | Will Waters | St John's | |
| 23 | George Walker | Van Mildert | |
| 24 | Tom Harwood | St Mary's | |
| 25 | Harriet Barsham | St. Chad's | |
| 26 | Nicola Tweedy | Grey | |
| 27 | Meghan Hosch | Hatfield | |
| 28 | Jazz Beard for Kennedy Round | John Snow | |
| 29 | Luke Hollander | St Aidan's | |
| 30 | Chris Waters | Collingwood | |
| 31 | Kieran Laurie | St Hild & St Bede | |
| 32 | Laura Doherty | University College | |
| 33 | James Creer | Stephenson | |
| 34 | Stella Elena Alexandrova | Trevelyan | |
| 35 | Rachel Meyer | Josephine Butler | |
| 36 | Harry Cross | Open Position | |
| 37 | Johan Seidenfaden | Open Position | |
| 38 | Dominic Birch | Open Position | |
| 39 | VACANT | Open Position (freshers) | |
| 40 | Dominic Robson | UG Academic Rep | |
| 41 | Hannah Britt | PGR Academic Rep | |
| 42 | VACANT | PGT Academic Rep | |
| Attended | Sent Apologies | No Attendance or Apologies | Not in post |