

The Academic Affairs Officer (LW) presented Assembly her objectives and advised that she had been evaluating the support given to course reps, and that a survey would be going out. She stated that she had submitted the academic year report to UEC, and thanked those that had filled out the survey. She was now waiting for a response and will feed back to student body ASAP. Katie Unwin asked what has been done about Erasmus in light of Brexit and LW advised that nothing has been decided but she understands it's a huge issue. James Creer said a huge well done to LW and all the course reps that pushed out the survey to achieve the 6000 responses.

The Activities Officer (KS) presented her objectives to Assembly, advising that she has been working on a report looking at impact on participation in student activities. She advised that she is also working on a quality society scheme and re-creating the student group regulations. Regarding keeping Wednesday afternoons free – the University have confirmed that they currently have no plans to change this. Harry Cross asked KS a multi-part question concerning the statement the Union published on KWAF, specifically asking how the quote from the Pro-VC for Education was obtained. KS responded that once the policy was passed by Assembly the Union contacted the University and the Pro-VC emailed a response, from which the quote was obtained. Harry continued to question KS concerning the quote at which time; the Chair acknowledged that the question being asked was not able to be answered in Assembly as it related to Union staff.

The Community Officer (JG) presented her objectives to Assembly, informing members that the University's Diversity and Equality Advisory Group have agreed to have the presidents of People of Colour Association, LGBT+ Association and Students with Disabilities Association on the committee. She also advised that the plans for the new site at St. Mary's field were looking good regarding accessibility. She congratulated LGBT+ Association for being awarded best national LGBT group at NUS conference. Molly Smith asked why Mature Students Association and International Association presidents weren't sitting on the Diversity & Equality advisory group and JG advised that they were keen on making sure the liberation groups were represented, but that Mature and International Associations would still feed into the committee through the Welfare and Liberation Officer.

The Development Officer (AJ) presented his objectives to Assembly informing members that he had been working on DUCK exec training and development needs, and was planning a development day to train the new exec team. He also advised that the Take the Lead programme was starting in July 2017. He also stated that there would soon be SU workshops with random students to help gather feedback on the new strategy. James Creer asked what would be done for space in the meantime if St. Mary's field development is not complete until 2019; LW advised that she was working with the library to come up with a solution.

Update from Committees

DUCK

The Chair of DUCK Committee updated members that DUCK had secured match funding from County Durham Community Foundation meaning that everything DUCK raises, CDCF will match. She also advised that DUCK week had been successful and that the Cathedral sleep out had risen over £7k. She announced that the DUCK Triwizard ball is taking place tomorrow night (10 March) and that the DUCK race is on Sunday (12 March).

Academic Affairs

The Chair of Academic Affairs Committee updated members on the committees work on the international attainment gap, and thanked Harry Cross and Audrey Allas for their work on collating PGT contracts from departments to make sure it is uniform and fair across the University.

Welfare, Equality & Diversity

J Smith updated assembly members on the work of WED Comm on behalf of the Chair, including that they had submitted two motions to NUS, and were working on active bystander training for SU staff.

New Society Ratification

The Chair of Societies Committee presented the below societies and stated that it is recommended that they be ratified:

Guinness Society

Quiz Society

Durham Dutchies

Durham Society for Economic Pluralism

Saudi Student Society

Primatological Society

Vote:

For: 25

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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

The Chair of Assembly stated that the remaining societies would be voted on separately due to there being societies that are against them being ratified. However Societies Committee recommends that all three are ratified.

Enhancing Legal Sector Access (ELSA)

Bar Society

HeForShe Society

A member of Enhancing Legal Sector Access (ELSA) spoke in favour of the society being ratified. A member of Law Society then spoke, who previously had been against ratification, but stated that the two societies had discussed their issues and that Law Society were now in favour of ELSA being ratified.

For: 23

Against: 1

Abstain: 1

ELSA was ratified as a Durham SU society.

A member of Bar Society spoke in favour of the society's ratification, and a member of Law spoke against the ratification on behalf of both Law Society and Mooting Society. Members of Assembly asked questions before taking the vote.

For: 13

Against: 6

Abstain: 8

The Bar Society was ratified as a SU society.

A member of HeForShe Society spoke in favour of their ratification, and a member of Feminism Society spoke against it. Assembly members asked questions and debated both sides.

For: 11

Against: 11

Abstain: 4

The vote was a tie, and HeForShe Society would therefore not be ratified.

Policy Paper: Rent Guarantor Scheme

Weiling Tay and Jo Gower presented the policy. They explained that the policy proposes that the University act as a guarantor which is not an uncommon scheme in Universities. The paper recommends that the University undertake research and then run a pilot scheme. JG asked for Assembly member's feedback. Courtney Cliffe advised that we should avoid it being means tested by the University, so they don't look at a student's income beforehand. Thom Addinall-Biddulph pointed out that some similar schemes in other universities don't cover 1st year students, so we would need to make sure 1st years and Masters Students would be covered. David Evans stated that we should make sure the admin fee is non-existent or at least affordable. Will Waters asked if can Erasmus students be included and JG stated that they would be incorporated in to it. AD thanks Weiling for her work on the policy and for bringing it to Assembly.

Strengthening NUS Democracy

Alice Dee presented the paper on strengthening NUS democracy and asked members to contact her or one of the other NUS delegates if they had any questions or comments.

Questions to Officers

There were no questions submitted

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 21:00, and announced that the next meeting will be on 9 May 2017, at 19:00 in ER201

#	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	Molly Smith for 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	Alex Tarrant-Anderson for Megan Croll	JCR PresComm	
14	Bethany Fleming	DUCK Exec	
15	David Evans for Abi Steed	MCR PresComm	
16	Charlie Walker	Governance & Grants	
17	Dewi Erwan Humphreys	Environmental & Citizenship	
18	J Smith for Rosa Tallack	WED Comm	
19	Craig Bateman	Media Rep	
20	Mitchell Langcaster-James	St. Cuthberts	
21	Thom 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	John Snow	
29	Clara Gallay for 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