

Assembly minutes 13-03-18

Welcome

Antonia Barber opened the meeting.

The resignation of Matt Gibson

Antonia noted that Matt Gibson had resigned from his role as Chair of Assembly.

The resignation of Laura Tidd

Antonia announced that Laura Tidd left her role as Undergraduate Academic Officer by mutual agreement from 12 March, following on from her recent extended sick leave and ongoing health issues. She will hand over her work to staff and other officers, to be managed until the new Undergraduate Academic Officer takes up the role. Students wishing to raise an issue within this remit, or with queries they would have directed to Laura, should continue to address these to the su.ugacademic@durham.ac.uk email address which will be monitored.

Conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Minutes of the meeting on 8 February

The minutes were approved.

Minutes of the meeting on 14 February

The minutes were approved.

UCU update

Megan Croll stated that she has been in contact with UCU and will issue a statement in due course.

Routine Business

Update on Officer Work

President – Megan Croll

Megan Croll updated on her work. James Creer asked for clarification regarding bursary tiers. Megan stated that other Universities offer bursaries of up to £45,000.

Megan read a statement from UCU reps.

Opportunities Officer – Charlie Walker

Charlie Walker updated on his work. James Creer asked what the University was planning to do to address the wider costs of Student Experience. Charlie explained that the research that he commissioned had just been completed and that he would take some recommendations to the University.

Welfare and Liberation Officer – Rosa Tallack

Rosa Tallack updated on her work. Cat May asked for some clarification about Pincident about how areas would be classified.

Items for Discussion

Ratification of Women's Association

Simona Battipaglia and Alexandra Thomas spoke in favour of the ratification of Women's Association.

There were no requests for clarification.

Darcy Van Eerten spoke against the ratification of the association on the basis that issues could be tackled in a different way.

Esther Green stated that whilst Women are over-represented in numbers, they face systematic oppression within society, the University and Colleges. Esther said that while they can be tackled through other methods – they are a group of students who want to campaign on these issues.

Darcy Van Eerten said that as a woman that she would try to tackle this from other avenues.

Vote for -

Vote against – 1

Any abstentions - 1

Woman's Association was ratified as the seventh Association.

Ratification of Working Class Students' Association

Samuel Osman spoke in favour of the ratification of a Working Class Students' Association. St Chad's Union Rep asked about whether there were too many exec roles, Sam explained that it replicated those of other Associations. Sam Johnson-Audini asked what plans they had for the year. Samuel Osman explained the term card. Helen Paton asked how the group would not be political. Sam Osman explained that they would ensure it was not.

George Stanbury said that there were concerns about the association's definition of Working Class was misleading. George also stated that campaign could be done outside of being an association as Working Class students did not need welfare services.

Alexandra Thomas said all associations are about welfare. Alex also stated that they should be able to bid for Association grants.

Megan stated that there had been a lack of consultation on the name of the group. Megan also stated that AGM had been announced with short notice. Megan agrees with the idea in principle but would like more students to be able to feed in.

A student spoke in favour of the motion saying that the event was advertised on the page which has around 500 likes. The student also disputed that many of the group did not know each other and stated that issues around names of Associations. Esther Green stated that People of Colour had consulted on their name.

James Creer said that the issue was important but they would likely have to give financial support which the association would be unable to do.

George Stanbury summated his point.

Sam Osman summated the motion.

Vote for -

Vote against –

Any abstentions -

The Working Class Association was ratified as an Association.

Academic representation on Assembly

Sarah Metcalfe explained that she wanted to change the number of reps to reflect who sits on it.

Justin Beese asked whether it was a case of getting different reps.

James Creer said that it was more like to reach quorum.

Vote for -

Vote against –

Any abstentions -

The motion passed.

Trustees report

Megan Croll introduced the trustees' report. The Governance and Appointments committee has asked to extend the Trustee appointments for Anthony Baker and Louise Shillinglaw until July and then all co-opted trustees will be discussed at the final Assembly.

Vote for -

Vote against –

Any abstentions -

The report was accepted.

Governance Review

Esther Green gave a verbal update on the upcoming governance review. Amelia McLoughlan asked to what extent JCRs would be involved. Esther said that this would be done through a review and by observing Northumbria and Newcastle's equivalent of Assembly.

Questions to Officers

Amelia McLoughlan asked Megan about the differentiation between the impact of the strikes of different departments. Megan said that Alan had said that no exams will feature content that has not been taught and there will be mitigations. Megan asked Amelia to contact her with any specific issues from disabled students.

George Stanbury asked how Megan would ensure that students were not used as bargaining chips. Megan said that Assembly would discuss this.

Alex Linqvist Jones asked about why it Megan is calling for the 17th college after a woman. Megan referred to the policy.

George Stanbury asked whether committee reports still happen at Assembly. Esther Green said they'd stopped because of they too lengthy but Governance and Grants would discuss this.

Close meeting

Antonia closed the meeting and explained that the next meeting of Assembly will be on Tuesday 12th June at 19:00. If you would like to submit anything to the agenda please do so by the 2nd of June.