Assembly minutes

<u>Welcome</u>

Antonia Barber opened the meeting.

<u>Minutes of the last meeting</u>

The minutes were approved.

<u>Conflicts of interest</u>

No conflicts of interest were declared.

<u>Election of the Chair</u>

Meerav Shah and Ted Lavis Coward were candidates in the election, and spoke in favour of their candidature.

Ted Lavis Coward was elected Chair of Assembly.

<u>Officer updates</u>

<u>Update on Officer Work</u>

President – Megan Croll

Megan Croll updated on her work.

Assembly asked MC for an update on Mount Oswald. MC's current focus was on supporting the students of John Snow College as their home was still unclear at this stage.

Opportunities Officer – Charlie Walker

Charlie Walker updated on his work.

Assembly asked for clarification on whether CW's work on non-curricular costs in College may result in a more centralised approach to funding. CW did not see why this should be the case.

Welfare and Liberation Officer – Rosa Tallack

Rosa Tallack updated on her work.

Postgraduate Academic Officer – Sabrina Seel

Sabrina Seel updated on her work.

<u>Questions to Officers</u>

Assembly asked MC whether the appeal for support from a law student who has suffered extraordinary hardship could be supported by Durham SU. MC replied that she was happy to share the story, and advised the student to make contact with Durham SU's casework service for further help.

Assembly asked CW whether the volunteer discipline policy could be further discussed. CW replied that extraordinary circumstances in the absence of policy had required a swift response from the HR Committee and, while he believed the policy was fit for purpose, he was always happy to respond to Assembly's feedback.

Appointment of trustees

Assembly ratified the appointments of Anthony Baker, Oliver Colling and Martin Parker.

Motions

24 Hour library motion

Stuart Goldie spoke in favour of his motion.

There was no speech against.

Assembly supported the motion.

Trade Union support motion

The Durham SU Chief Executive reminded Assembly of the student staff protocol. The Chair of Assembly said that due to the potential impact on staffing matters, she may take advice or guidance from the Chief Executive throughout this motion debate about correct procedure.

George Walker spoke in support of his motion.

Assembly asked:

- What is the GMB?
  - GW clarified the general nature of GMB, a national trade union that works with many SUs.
- Why work with DULC?
  - DULC is a student group that works closely with the GMB already.
- Are there other trade unions Durham SU could work with? Why the GMB?
  - There are other groups, and this would be discussed during recognition discussions.
- What about student workers not employed by Durham SU?
  - This would be a different employer, so a different piece of campaign work.
- Would this be an SU affiliation to the GMB?
  - No.

There was no speech against.

Assembly supported the motion.

Anti-Semitism motion

Isabelle Tarsh spoke in favour of the motion.

Assembly asked:

- Is criticism of the State of Israel OK?
  - Yes. Of course. But how it is done, and comparison to the Nazi fascist is agreed to be anti-Semitic due to the clear link to the past atrocities committed by this regime against the Jewish people.

There was no speech against.

Assembly supported the motion.

Amendments to the Standing Orders

CW spoke in favour of Proposal A.

Assembly asked:

- How big is Societies Committee?
  - 10 people.
- Is there a link between Durham SU and People and Planet.
  - Yes and this will continue.

Ed Nathan spoke against the proposal.

Assembly voted – 22 in favour, 1 against.

Assembly supported the motion.

RT spoke in favour of Proposal B.

Assembly asked:

- How would liaison with WEDComm happen?
  - The Welfare Residential would be the start of agreeing how this would happen.
- Should we enshrine the network in Standing Orders?
  - Probably not.

Assembly voted – 19 in favour, 4 against.

Terms and conditions for student groups

CW spoke in favour

Assembly asked:

- Would the dates be updated?
  - Yes.

NUS Delegates Report

Assembly accepted the report