

## **Student Parliament Minutes**

Monday 20 January 2025 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Level 8 Open Space, Strathclyde Student Union

Attendees: President, VP Community, VP Education, VP Inclusion, VP Sport; Faculty Rep Business PGT; Faculty Rep Engineering UG; Faculty Rep Engineering PGT; Faculty Rep Engineering PGR; Faculty Rep HaSS PGR; Faculty Rep Science UG; Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic Rep; Democracy Convener; Disabled Students' Rep; LGBT+ Rep; Part Time Students' Rep; Women's Rep.

Apologies: Faculty Rep Business UG; Faculty Rep HaSS UG; Faculty Rep Business PGR

Absent: Faculty Rep HaSS PGT; Faculty Rep Science PGT; Faculty Rep Science PGR

### **Parliament Minutes Summary**

- Executive Officers provided updates
- Lots of opportunities for students (both representatives and non-elected students) to get involved by submitting feedback to the Race Equality Charter Group, name suggestions for the "Education for Sustainable Development" conference and nominations for the Teaching Excellence Awards
- Nominations are open for Spring elections and will close on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February
- CEO provided updates on motions passed at parliament such as those involving Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis (GCRC) and the BDS Policy

#### **1. Welcome and Call to Order**

*Democracy Convener*

- a. Members Present
- b. Apologies
- c. Declarations of Interest (if any)
  - No declarations of interest made
- d. Minutes and Matters Arising
  - Minutes approved

#### **2. Reports**

*Exec*

##### **a. President**

- Welcomed parliament back and thanked members for attending
- The Campus Living Room: successful launch and happy to see it being so well used

- StrathMates: The January pilot has been launched and the first event will be running on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. There will be a review of the six-week pilot and if successful, hopefully StrathMates will run again in September.
- CEO/Trustee Recruitment: Now that Morna Simpkins has been recruited as CEO and trustees have been confirmed, we have a full trustee board
- Principal's Recruitment: Jim will be leaving in August so the recruitment process for the new principal has begun
- Student Living Strategy: Working with the council on including the student voice in every day council matters
- Bahrain Campus: Eva and Morna visited Bahrain at the end of last semester and are currently looking at how a campus in Bahrain might operate

#### **b. Vice-President Community**

- SHAG Week: Kicked off SHAG Week today (20<sup>th</sup> of January) with a stall giving out free condoms and lube. A reminder that STI testing will be carried out by the Terrence Higgins Trust on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January
- StrathPantry: This is continuing to move along as we now have a confirmed space, just waiting for funding approval
- STAR Awards: Planning underway for the Student Achievement and Recognition (STAR) Awards with a proposed date for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May
- Socs Exec: Some new societies were approved/funding granted.
- Climate Conference: Having monthly meetings with Tracy about a climate workshop/conference that will hopefully allow students from different degree to come together and talk about sustainability. Hoping to allow get course reps and societies involved with this.

AP Everyone: Think about a more exciting name for the conference - the current name is "Education for Sustainable Development"

#### **c. Vice-President Education**

VP Education sent in their full written report before parliament so provided a shorter summary of actions today. The report can be found [here](#).

- Representation: VP Education has been working on improving student representation and has been hosting feedback sessions for the pilot project. Findings seem to show that there are a lot of inconsistencies within baseline work so he's hoping to try and improve that.
- Events: Lots of exciting events coming up. There's a Skills and Development Day for Reps on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February (sign up [here](#)) which will look at elections, campaigning and public speaking.
- TEAs: Planning for the Teaching Excellence Awards (TEAs) in May so please give feedback on the categories and encourage students to nominate
- PGR Representation Role Recruitment: Applications close on Thursday

AP Representatives: Sign up for the Skills and Development Day for Reps

AP Everyone: Encourage students to submit nominations for the TEAs

#### **d. Vice-President Inclusion**

VP Inclusion sent in their full written report before parliament so provided a shorter summary of actions today. The report can be found [here](#).

- Podcast: Has been working on a Success Beyond Borders podcast which should be released by the end of January
- Sound Therapy Session: This was well-attended and seemed to be enjoyed by students
- Microaggression Workshop: Creating a training workshop in collaboration with EDI officers about being confident in handling and report microaggressions
- Race Equality Charter Working Group: Has created a working group to see if we can create a race equality charter for Strathclyde – looking for feedback to bring to the group

AP Everyone: Contact the VP Inclusion if you have any ideas or feedback for the Race Equality Charter Working Group

#### **e. Vice-President Sport**

- Girls' Night In: Planning is going well – merch and timetables finalised and one more meeting and then should be good to go for the week of International Women's Day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March
- SAF: Clear next steps for sports – looking at data points from previous years training and fixtures to hopefully put into one clear ask for partnerships
- Cost of Student Sport Document: First draft of the Cost of Student Sport document has been created with sporting sabbs across Scotland, further edits to make.
- BUCS Winter Summit: Lots of interesting panels on sport and belonging at the BUCS Winter Summit and AGM. Changes to the constitution were proposed but these weren't passed – but has started some important conversations and hopefully will pass next time
- Sports Ball: General tickets will go on sale on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January

Democracy Convener thanked all the officers for their updates.

### **3. Items of Business**

#### **i. Policy Briefing Group Update**

*VP Community*

- Unfortunately, due to a busy calendar and the winter break, the Policy Briefing Group have been unable to meet since last parliament. An open call was made for those wanting to be part of the group to email the democracy email ([strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk](mailto:strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk))

AP Everyone: Email the democracy email if you would like to be part of the Policy Briefing Group

**ii. Student Members' Meeting**

*Voice Manager*

- All the dates, times and locations of parliament have been updated online. Instead of Parliament 6, there will be a student members' meeting and trustees will be invited – this will hopefully be an opportunity for students to meet elected officers, find out more about what change has happened and any upcoming campaigns.

AP Everyone: Please fill out the short survey about your time as an elected student representative so we can highlight your achievements and encourage others to run

**iii. Removal of Non-Executive Officers**

*Democracy Convener*

Parliament ratification of the removal of the following Reps subject to Item 13.e.6.a of the University of Strathclyde Students' Association Schedules. Named Reps will be invited to speak prior to voting.

Hema Singaraddi – Women's Representative

The Women's Representative apologised for absence and said she's been brainstorming for International Women's Day (would like to have a letter box for people to write a letter for their favourite woman and would like to host a session with female entrepreneurs). A discussion took place regarding the Women's Rep's commitment to the role along with further questioning by other members present regarding plans for their remaining term.' The Women's Rep stated she is now in position to fully commit to the role and plans to collaborate with other reps and Strath Union staff on IWD and other projects. She also committed to giving a progress update at the next parliament.

13 representatives voted in favour of her maintaining position as Women's Representation, no votes against.

**4. Any Other Competent Business (AOCB)**

*Democracy Convener*

**a. Trustee Update on BDS Policy**

*CEO*

In November 2023, student parliament passed a motion on Palestine that involved a review of policies and organisations. The following decisions were made:

- HP: The union uses the university's IT system but the union will look at influencing the university to change their supplier.
- Amazon: used quite frequently by societies due to how quickly items can be delivered. There will be a full review of the use of Amazon to see if plans can be made in advance and more sustainable suppliers are used. VP Education has been looking into some ethical suppliers and will continue this research.
- Coca-Cola/Schweppes – spent a long time looking at how much is used and what alternatives are out there. The bar staff did an alternative taste test over the summer

and the results weren't promising – and alternative options are about 50% more expensive than Coca-Cola. Strath Union has about 90 members of student staff but this number would have to be reduced should a switch be made so the board has decided to not progress this.

- Pepsi, Walkers and Doritos – These products have been removed from sale and an alternative supplier has been brought in.
- Domino's – Domino's is part of an agreement that most SUs are part of so will have quite a negative impact on contract if we were to remove them. Native, the outsourced advertising supplier that brings Domino's in, are looking into this themselves.

**b. Trustee Update on Glasgow & Clyde Rape Crisis (GCRC)**

*CEO*

- At the last student parliament, two motions were passed. One was about signing the joint NUS x Glasgow School of Art statement and the second was about uninviting Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis from FFTN.
- Morna, Strath Union CEO, briefed the university on the conversations had at student parliament.
- GCRC are having conversations with the University, and we will be updated on the outcome.
- Morna noted that there has been a lack of clarity between what GCRC say their intentions are and what has been reported.

**5. Adjournment**

*Democracy Convenor*

- The Democracy Convenor and VP Education reminded students that parliament is always open for students to bring ideas and discuss and gain feedback
- A reminder to students that election nominations are now open and more information can be found [here](#).
- Any ideas about how we can promote elections are welcomed and please send them to the democracy email ([strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk](mailto:strathunion.dem@strath.ac.uk))
- Democracy Convenor thanked everyone for the contributions and the meeting was adjourned.