

General Meeting

10th October
4-7pm

C.LTA5

Democracy Review Workshop (4-5pm)

General Meeting Agenda (5pm onwards)

- Welcome and Attendance
- Minutes Ratification
- Challenges to Order Paper
- Elections & Resignations
 - Autumn Elections
 - Election Committee
 - Referendum
- Reports ([Paper A](#))
 - Union President
 - Sports Union President
 - Vice President Communities
 - Vice President Education
- Trustee Board Appointments Update
- Motions
 - 2024-25 Lapsed Policy ([Paper B](#) and [Appendix 1](#))
 - Stirling Students should go to COP ([Paper C](#))
 - Positive Campus Employment ([Paper D](#))
- Dates to Note
- Any Other Business
- Date of Next Meeting: 5-7pm, Thursday 28th November 2024
 - Motion Deadline: 10am, Thursday 21st November 2024
 - Motion Amendment Deadline: 10am, Tuesday 26th November 2024

Paper A: Reports

Union President Sabbatical Report, Leen Ali

Hi Everyone! My name is Leen, and I am the President of the Students' Union. I work on various topics, including equality, diversity, and inclusion campaigns. Here are some key highlights from the past few months:

Cost of Living

- We have been working with organisations such as Transition Stirling to ensure that the community food initiative is well-stocked, and they have provided weekly drop-offs.
- We successfully managed to secure Microwaves alongside our VP Communities and you can find the microwave at scan.

Inclusion

- I have planned and organised a range of Black History Month events, including collaborations with the African Caribbean Society. Please check my social media platforms for more information on the series of events happening throughout the month.
- For the Equalities Zone, I have reached out to equalities societies to encourage their participation in upcoming meetings and to provide updates on their plans. I will continue supporting equalities societies through campaigns and key events, including Black History Month, Women's History Month, Disability Awareness Month, and others. Additionally, I will be in the atrium this month to promote the zone and increase its visibility.
- I worked with our International Officer and BeConnected to help organise the Nigerian Independence Day stall.
- I collaborated with a lecturer from the Management School and the BeConnected programme to host the "Connecting Cultures" event. This event aimed to inform international students about Scotland's legal and cultural norms. It was a successful event, and special thanks to the Gaelic Society for their contribution.

Other Areas

- I supported the recruitment process for the Deputy Principal of Student Experience, the Deputy Principal of Research and Innovation, and the Director of Student Services.
- I attended SOS UK's Ethical Finance Training, which helped shape how we can approach the University on matters of divestment.
- I also attended the NUS Liberation Collective Movement Building Workshop, where I collaborated with other student officers to help shape the future of our liberation collective.
- I joined the "Cross Party Group on Challenging Racial and Religious Prejudice" NUS Scotland Committee.

If you would like to find out more about the other things I have been working on, or if you're interested in learning more about any of these campaigns, please feel free to get in touch with me through my Instagram account @Stir_President, or via email at president.union@stir.ac.uk.

Sports Union President Sabbatical Report, Laura Shaw

As Sports President, I look after all of our 53 Sports Clubs. The summer months have been spent attending conferences, planning for the year ahead and running campaigns to kick off the year. I attended both SSS and BUCS Conferences, networking, building relations and sharing best practice with Sabbs across the country.

Campaigns

- Full Time on Initiations by Scottish Student Sport
- Sport Swaps – will be starting mid-October throughout the year
- Technogym MOVE Challenge – 14th to 20th October
- Show Racism the Red Card – w/c 14th October

Kit

- The Sports Union is part of a multi-department contract with BE Uniforms.
- Have been working with our clubs to move from individually owned to club-owned match kit so it's more sustainable
- Awaiting for the website to be published for kit purchases as it's just having its final edits

Club Mark

- Working with clubs to engage in our club mark system, known as the StirScale, to boost engagement and support clubs in good club governance
- As this is the first year, I am also collecting feedback from clubs looking ahead for the review for its second year

You can contact me at sports.union@stir.ac.uk. Please also follow us on Instagram, @stirlingsportsunion, to keep up to date with the Sports Union!

Vice President Communities Sabbatical Report, Justine Pédussel

As Vice President Communities, I work on many things including societies, sustainability, volunteering, housing and transport.

Housing:

- I attended Housing Day where I spoke to Housing Minister about the housing bill and allowing more rights for students in student housing
- I have been organising with Sabbs across Scotland and we've created a Housing Week 11th – 15th of November
- Ongoing Scottish Gov. PBSA Consultation, so please fill it out!

Sustainability:

- Our overall campaign is Zero Waste, and we are looking at waste on campus.
- Wins so far have been a Microwave at Scran and that single-use cups are now compostable and that there's now got a reusable cutlery and cup scheme
- The Climate Festival has some amazing society involvement. This is the first time we'll have Accessibility Descriptors for all events

Empowering students:

- We have Drug Testing kits again (to test your drugs) - come by the office for one
- To empower students by informing them of their employment and tenancy rights, I have made Know Your Rights wallets – you can get one in the office.
- Started society showcases - recognition of one society each month
 - August - SUDS; September – DSAS
- In collaboration with DSAS, we are looking for feedback from anyone who's gone through the process of getting an ARUAA and your experience through that.
- I had my first VP Tea drop-in session last week but there'll be more across the semester (the next one is the 15th) so come by if you have questions or if you just want to do crafts.

Transportation:

- I attend community meetings to give general feedback to McGills so please fill out the feedback form if you have feedback so I can represent you well in these meetings.
- I know that parking on campus isn't easy, and we are working to help find a solution. I welcome any thoughts or solutions!

You can contact me at communities.union@stir.ac.uk or my official social media channels @stir_communities.

Vice President Education, Adelayo Adebayo

Hello, I am Adelayo, your Vice President for Education and I oversee everything academics and education. Some highlights from my first few months in Office have been attending the University's learning and teaching conference where I was part of the panel that discussed ways to improve students' learning and teaching experience on campus, networked at NUS and SPARQs conference with fellow sabbatical officers. Here are some of the updates of my first few months:

Personal Tutor

- I have been working with the Deputy Principal for students' experience and senior academic staffs on ways to improve the personal tutor scheme and I have shared some ideas which has been taken on board.
- I have been speaking to new students in person and on social media to educate them on how and why they need to get in touch with their personal tutor.
- I am working on ways we can keep in touch with students and get feedback regarding their engagement with their personal tutors

Academic Representatives

- I have been working to improve training for Academic Representatives.
- I'm involved in discussions to ensure students union and senior staff members have access to SSFC feedback to be informed in ongoing discussions in the meeting.
- Delivered training to over 100 Academic reps at the just concluded conferences.

Inductions

- I attended 75% of first year's programme/division inductions with Justine, VP Communities, and staff to introduce the Students' Union, how to get involved, the support, and help available through the Union.
- Come along to evening catchup with me every Tuesday from 4-5pm for questions, raise issues, and suggestions.
- I have been working with Justine, our VP communities along with INTO to ensure the students are more integrated with what we do and presented at their induction. I will also be addressing their Academic Reps this November.

If you have any questions, please send an email to education.union@stir.ac.uk and you can also get in touch on Instagram @stir_education.

Paper B: 2024-25 Lapsed Policy [[Appendix 1](#)]

Proposer: Justine Pédussel (Vice President Communities) | Seconder: Adelayo Adebayo (Vice President Education)

Please note this motion shall be voted on in two parts:

- 1. Motions containing updates to the Students' Union Schedule and/or Constitution*
- 2. All other recommended proposed motions in [Appendix 1](#)*

Motion Resolves

This motion resolves to lapse and archive the motions listed in the accompanying report that have been identified as outdated, irrelevant, or superseded by more recent policies.

This motion resolves to continue with regular reviews of existing policies at the end of every academic year in line with the 'Lapsed Policy' Policy.

Motion Notes

As per our 'Lapsed Policy' Policy, motions should be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant, reflect current student opinion, and align with the overall strategic direction.

Several policies from past years have been identified as outdated, no longer relevant, or have been superseded by more current policies.

A review has been conducted and the following list of motions, as documented in [Appendix 1](#), is recommended to be lapsed by the end of this academic year.

Motion Beliefs

Archiving outdated or motions which have been superseded ensures that Stirling Students' Union operates under clear, relevant, and up-to-date policies, thereby improving governance and decision-making.

The timely review and lapsing of policies also help prevent confusion or conflict arising from outdated motions, streamlining operations.

Paper C: Stirling Students should go to COP

Proposer: Morgan Tears | Seconder: Janhavee Belvalkar (Sustainability Volunteer Officer)

Motion Resolves

1. We want the student's union to lobby the university to fund students to go COP (Conference of Parties of UNFCCC).
 - a) The minimum requirement for this will be two students.
2. Picking students should involve an application process to identify those who would benefit most from this experience and would be able to represent the university at a key international event.

Motion Notes

Global Methane Budget ([Global Methane Budget 2024](#)), states that two-thirds of methane emissions stem from human activity including the extraction and usage of fossil fuels.

This continued rise does not tie in with both the Climate goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. Methane has contributed to a 0.5C warm since pre-industrial times. CO2, 0.8C ([Forster et al., 2021.](#))

The invite list to COP comprises of politicians, billionaires and royalty. Those who are greatly impacted by climate change are the ones being excluded. Climate change will continue to reduce food and water security across the globe slowing down the progress needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals ([IPCC 2023](#)).

Goals aiming to reduce greenhouse gases such as methane are being pushed aside and we are seeing an increase in these emissions despite promises. There is a lack of commitment by powerful people to do what is required. We must empower voices.

Multiple universities send delegates to COP. This includes The University of Aberdeen who sent students to COP28 in Dubai as part of the university's net zero strategy ([The University of Aberdeen, 2023](#)). St Andrews (COP26) and the University of Edinburgh (COP27) have done the same.

The University has a Sustainability plan which states, "the University of Stirling has committed to the principles set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)"

In Theme 4: People, Green Travel and Partnerships it states that the key to driving this plan is the staff and students. This impact should be taken to COP and empower voices of those who are directly impacted by our changing climate.

Motion Beliefs

Sustainability is a core priority for the University of Stirling, as outlined in its Sustainability Plan. To truly achieve its goals, the university must support students in attending critical events like COP, where the future of our planet is shaped.

Too often, COP discussions fail to lead to real action, partly because they are not accessible to all. By funding student attendance, the university not only demonstrates its commitment to sustainability but also advances its widening access agenda. This engagement will foster collaborations, open educational opportunities, and strengthen Stirling's climate change research.

If the university truly cares about sustainability, it must invest in its students and their role in shaping a sustainable future



Paper D: Positive Campus Employment

Proposer: Justine Pédussel (Vice President Communities) | Seconder: Adelayo Adebayo (Vice President Education)

Motion Resolves

As the Students' Union, we encourage that the University adopts the following principles:

- Any permanent employer granted license or permission to trade or operate on campus should pay employees the Real Living Wage as a minimum.
- Any permanent employer granted license or permission to trade or operate on campus should support employee trade union membership and recognise a trade union for their employees.
- Any permanent employer granted license or permission to trade or operate on campus must treat staff fairly and equally, upholding high standards of employment rights.

Motion Notes

The Scottish Government's Fair Work criteria emphasises the importance of not only financial fairness through the Real Living Wage but also a diverse and inclusive workplace, free from exploitative practices such as zero-hours contracts and fire-and-rehire tactics.

Encouraging employers operating on campus to adopt these standards reinforces the University's role in fostering a positive and supportive working environment, contributing to both employee well-being and the overall campus community.

As of April 2024, the Real Living Wage was £12 per hour for employees aged 18 and over. The National Living Wage was £11.44 for employees aged 21 and over. The National Minimum Wage was £8.60 for employees aged between 18 and 21 years, £6.40 for under 18 year olds and £6.40 for apprentices.

Motion Beliefs

The University of Stirling has a Fair Work Statement which was jointly agreed by the University and the local Trade Union Representatives (UCU, Unison, Unite), this statement confirms the University's commitment to ensuring fair working practices are in place in support of 'Fair Work First'.

The University of Stirling is committed to advancing fair work for all employees and is committed to delivering on the criteria outlined by the Scottish Government as follows:

- Payment of the Real Living Wage.
- Appropriate channels for effective worker's voice.
- Investment in workforce development.
- No inappropriate use of zero-hours contracts.
- Action to tackle the gender pay gap and create a more diverse and inclusive workplace.
- Offer flexible and family friendly working practices for all workers from day one of employment.
- Oppose the use of fire and rehire practice.

We believe that the University of Stirling has a power to influence positive employment opportunities on campus.