

Open Meeting and Emergency General Meeting

16th May
1:30-3:30pm

MS TEAMS

To help facilitate the meeting and to provide the opportunity to submit questions in advance, those wishing to attend are asked to sign up via the [Union's event platform](#). The MS Teams link for the meeting will be sent to those registered in advance of the meeting.

Open Meeting and Emergency General Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Attendance
- Opening Remarks from the Chair of the Students' Union Trustee Board
- Questions regarding the Transfer of the Robbins Centre
- EGM*
 - Accountability and Transparency of Union officers, particularly with regards to giving away the Robbins Centre.
- Any Other Business

*As this is an EGM with a single motion to vote on, in the interests of clarity, only the motion will be discussed, and other aspects of the General Meeting process will be added to the next academic year 2024/25 meeting.

Paper A: Accountability and Transparency of Union officers, particularly with regards to giving away the Robbins Centre.

Proposer: Teddy Finlow | Seconder: Josh Parsonage

Motion Resolves

- This does not meet the standard expected by students and thus, this EGM believes a vote of censure must be held.
 - Therefore, this motion asks :- Does this EGM disapprove of the decision made by the 2023/24 Sabbatical officers (who sit on the Trustee board) to dispose of the Robbins Centre without consultation with ordinary members of this union? And therefore, censures those officers?
- This Union should research other Scottish student unions schedules, with the aim to introduce a 'Union Officer Accountability Schedule' - which makes it possible to hold 'accountability surgeries' and to reject officer reports. Such schedule should be adopted as core policy of this Union.
- Update this Union's Vote of No Confidence procedure to be more consistent and reflect that of a referendum by amending This Union's Constitution under section 8.5(ii) to read "Votes of No Confidence must take place within 5 days of the Chief Executive receiving a Motion signed by 60 Ordinary Members;" - and amend section 8.5(iii) of this Union's Constitution to read "The quoracy for a Vote of No Confidence will be 1/40th of the FTE population of Ordinary Members;".

Motion Notes

- All sabbatical officers are members of the Trustee board ex officio.
- On 14th of March 2024 the Trustee board published their decision to give away our student union bar to Stirling Hotels Services Ltd.
- Students were not consulted by the Trustee board before the huge decision to give away our space was made.
- No proper efforts were put in by the Trustee board to support the Union bar staff in hosting pub events which could have driven up revenue as prior officeholders have from time to time.
- Stirling Hotels Services Ltd, which the Trustee board has given our bar, etc. away to has an explicit history of poor treatment of its workers, many of whom are students at this university and are therefore also ordinary members of this Union.
- Minutes from the Trustee board meetings where this decision was made are not available to ordinary members.
- Despite there being a constitutional requirement for the Union President to present the Annual Report, the duty to present the financial report (which is most relevant to the topic of this motion) was placed on an unpaid student trustee.
- Students were not given adequate time to ask questions about such an important decision at the General Meeting on the 14th of March 2024. The chair of that discussion had a conflict of interest by being a member of the Trustee Board

Motion Believes



Given the importance of having a space of our own at university, the decision to give away possession and governance of the student union bar was frankly negligent without having first consulted students or truly attempted to save its financial situation. The repercussions of this are huge, particularly with regards to club/soc use of the space for free, and yet students were not provided with a transparent space to ask their questions. Many students felt they were unfairly cut-off by the chair of the meeting on the 14th of March before their questions could even be asked. Students deserve the space to explain their dissatisfaction with this decision and/or the way this decision was reached. Bar a vote of no confidence, which has near impossible requirements to pass, this Union provides no space to hold officers to account. We have been forced to create this space through the holding of an EGM. Other Scottish Student Unions have procedures to call for 'accountability surgeries', and have the ability to reject student union officer reports where they believe the officers have not been properly representing students. The continued rejection of officers reports leads to automatic censure votes and eventually, a vote of no confidence