



## SU Committee Meeting – 24.11.2020

Attendance: RM (Publicity & Relations Officer), SWC (President), MP (VP), HM (EM Rep), GG (WCS Rep), MH (SU Rep), AJ (SU Rep)

Apologies: AIJ (Local Students' Rep), JS (PG & M Chair), LH (LGBT+ Rep)

Absent:

Location: Zoom Call

\*RM Welcomes new members, and reminds us to do the Democracy review\*

### The future of education under Covid-19: SU Core Position

RM This is essentially how the SU will adapt to COVID. Survey mostly supported.

MP Is the No-Detriment policy a bit optimistic – people graduating off their first year results seems a little bit silly.

RM It might not be as simple as that. We'll see.

RM to vote for this

### Housing and Accommodation through COVID-19: SU Core Position

RM Goal is to get SU Officers to lobby for more generous tenancy agreements. Reintroduce the student landlord pledge. Survey unanimously supported.

AJ What is the Student Landlord pledge?

RM Try to get letting agents/private landlords to commit to a few semi-reasonable things.

RM to vote for this

### Wider Student Experience through COVID-19: SU Core Position

RM The promises here are a bit more vague – lobbying the Uni to do better. Survey unanimously supported.

RM to vote for this



## Cut the Rent

RM Me and SWC have been involved with this one. Working out demands that will work. Quite exciting moving forward. Survey mostly supported.

HM Where did the cap on the fees come from?

SWC It's a figure that comes from SU Research. The figure is a bit convoluted and forces students with no other income to working 12 hours a week. Either way it's a huge improvement. I don't realistically think we'll get it lower than this. If we started from a lower point we'd be more ambitious. This would make a huge difference if we secured it. Only the SU have the resources to do this research. There will be an amendment submitted (or perhaps not, as they missed the deadline) – Hatfield aren't happy with the differentiated room prices, and I kind of agree. I believe that capping prices for 25% of rooms wouldn't be the end of the world. Who knows how it will be implemented though. They just fear the Uni can take it in a different direction due to the vague-ness. If the amendment isn't allowed it can just be resubmitted more clearly

## Motion to condemn the actions of the Durham Union Society

RM Survey mixed. Basically DUS has had a lot of scandals. Formal motion of condemnation, and SU separates from it.

HM Did anyone give reasons as to why we should go against?

SWC I do think it would be helpful if it had included more screenshots. Needs more back up

HM I think the boycott campaign provided a lot more evidence.

GG How much of a difference is there between this as a motion and the banning of DUCA & Free Market Association?

RM The difference is that the Union Society isn't part of the SU so they can't just get rid of it.

SWC I'd feel more comfortable supporting if we had passed something supporting this. It seems to me that they have assumed that we all know the same.

SWC leaves

MP I would vote against this motion. We've got no solid reason to think the JCR would support this, and hundreds of members of Cuth's are a member of DUS. I don't support DUS, but I've got friends who do, and we can't just ban every remotely right wing group. The motion also is very poorly written.

RM The evidence is there in my opinion but it's not in the motion. I would personally like to vote for this motion.

HM I think the EM Reps signed the Boycott thing. I'm quite in favour of this. I bought membership and went to a couple of events. It's a strange vibe there. I've spoke to YR (Submitted the motion) – if minorities are saying that there are issues we should listen.



GG I understand what MP was saying – there are people who are members and aren't awful – but we can't ignore that Working Class Students are just a topic of debate. It's not a group that represents minority students at all. It could be reformed but it could be.

MH I feel like DUS is given the benefit of the doubt because it has a sort of protected status – if it was happening in the JCR it would have been condemned in different ways. Association execs are all very against DUS.

AJ The motion seems weak. There isn't evidence that Cuth's as a body would support the motion in its current form.

RM I think a lot of people in the Boycott campaign felt like they needed to go higher.

MP I think we should vote to abstain – this is a poorly attended meeting of a small committee – the motion is poor, it wasn't supported by the survey.

MH Even if it does pass, it doesn't do that much? Is Freshers' Fair that much of a big deal.

RM I'm unsure. I think they did suffer from a lack of Freshers' Fair this year.

\*Voted on in a Poll – 2 abstain 4 for\*

HM I do think this isn't the most representative

RM This is just me as a Cuth's rep on Assembly – the impact is not too heavy. I can ask questions, and I will try to ask for clarifications. I don't know what I could say that would be useful.

AJ Can you ask for the key sources of evidence to be provided?

RM to vote for this

## SU Elections

RM This is rolling over from last week. 3 people have nominated themselves for Chair. My instinct is to vote for GB as he has experience and has written full paragraphs, and to vote for JT for Governance and Grants Committee Open Places as he seems competent and is the only candidate.

\*Everyone supports this\*