

**Aberdeen University Students' Association**  
**Minutes of AUSA AGM 2019**  
**William Guild Arts Lecture theatre, 19/02/2019 5:30pm**

<b>Agenda Item</b>		<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>1. Welcome</b>  The Chair, Dariya Koleva (DK) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>2. Housekeeping and approval of agenda</b>  DK explained the purpose of the AGM as an opportunity to hold the Trustee Board accountable and ask them questions. DK mentioned that no fire alarms have been scheduled for today, and that the Safe Space policy is in place so no abusive language will be tolerated. DK asked students to always address herself (the Chair) when speaking and to always first state their name and if they represent any specific student group. The AUSA AGM hashtag for social media is #AUSAAGM. DK explained how the voting works and that no formal breaks will be held.</p> <p>DK asked if there were any questions and none were asked.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>3. Approval of Minutes from AGM 2018</b>  The minutes of the previous AGM were published on the AUSA website. DK asked if there were any questions and none were asked. DK said a majority vote was needed to approve the minutes. DK called for a vote and an overwhelming majority was reached.</p> <p>AGM 2018 minutes were approved.</p>	<p><b>3. Action point:</b>   AGM 2018 minutes approved.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>4. Annual reports</b>  Student President Lawson Ogubie (LO) was asked to present the annual report, which was published on the AUSA website. LO summarised some of the highlights, including the AUSA space on the ground floor of the hub and Union Brow. LO also mentioned that AUSA Advice had been very effective in terms of accommodation advice and that AUSA had also secured funding for sustainability projects from the Scottish Climate Fund. Money was also raised for other charities.</p> <p>DK asked if there were any questions about the annual report. Vera Erbanova (VE) asked when was the annual report uploaded. LO said the report was put on the website 7 days before the AGM as accordance to the constitution.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>5. Annual accounts</b>  Student Trustee Board member Toni Grimaldi Alcina (TGA) gave a summary of the annual accounts and explained that students make a third of the Trustee Board, in addition to the Sabbs. TGA explained that AUSA has had a Finance Manager for a year now who has done a great job after previous tougher years. TGA said the annual accounts were published on the website but is happy to answer</p>	

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	<p>questions. TGA highlighted some restricted funds used partially for ASV and the occupancy of the ground floor of the Hub.</p> <p>DK asked if there were any questions about the accounts.</p> <p>VE asked when the annual accounts had been published, to which LO said they were published in accordance to the constitution. Jennifer Sweeney (JS) acknowledges what LO said but feels that that was not enough time. TGA corrected LO's earlier comment and said that the accounts had been on the website since November.</p> <p>Andrew Easton (AE) asked about the £20,000 that is spent on societies, but pointed out that the accounts are inconsistent on this amount. TGA was asked to respond but he directed the question to the AUSA Finance Manager who clarified that the figures were accurate and consistent.</p> <p>A Gaudie representative asked how much money was spent on wages. TGA quoted a number from the accounts. Another Gaudie representative asked why TGA is here if he cannot answer finance questions. TGA said he is a student volunteer trustee and it is not his job to do the finances. The Communities Officer Lina Nass (LN) added that the employees do the finances.</p> <p>Frederic Bayer (FB) asked if the Finance Manager could be given permission to speak. DK invited Iain Lamb (IL) to speak. IB responded with specific amounts from the accounts to previously asked questions.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>6. Affiliations</b></p> <p>LO was asked to explain the affiliations. LO said AUSA is affiliated with organisations such as BUCS, NUS, SSS and Jubilee Scotland. LO said that the cost of each membership is mentioned in the annual accounts.</p> <p>DK asked if there were any questions. None were asked.</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>7. Appointment of Auditors update</b></p> <p>LO asked to explain. LO said a charity is expected to have auditors to check the accounts. LO said the current auditor is Henderson Loggie.</p> <p>No questions were asked of this.</p>	
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>8. Policy update</b></p> <p>LO asked to give a policy update. LO said that AGM and Student Council vote on motions and the Trustee Board continues to monitor motions that are being passed.</p>	

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<p>9</p>	<p><b>9. Open questions to the Trustee Board</b></p> <p>DK opened the floor for questions for the Trustee Board.</p> <p>A representative of the Women's Football Club said their trainings have been interrupted due to trainers not turning up, and why more funds are not being made available. Sports Officer Niamh Barrie (NB) was asked to respond, to which she said she has been in talks with Estates and the discussions are ongoing. NB also mentioned improvements on Balgownie are also ongoing but this is something the next Sports Officer will need to continue. NB also mentioned that there is a sports liaison group between AUSA and ASV, and apologised for issues with the training schedule.</p> <p>Matthew Keracher (MK) asked why all the Trustee Board members are not present, if the board chooses the AGM date. LN responded that some trustees are absent due to family and wellness reasons.</p> <p>MK asked why AUSA staff were not allowed to speak. JS suggested a procedural motion to grant permission for all guests to speak. Procedural motion was seconded and an overwhelming majority supported it. CEO Margaret Paterson (MP) was asked to explain why this policy is in place. MP said that the AGM is for the Trustee Board to present the annual accounts and report to the organisation members. MP added that she as the CEO also reports to the Trustee Board and that previously AUSA did not have staff that dealt with specific areas like the Finance Manager. MP added that the staff are there to provide Trustees with specific information if needed.</p> <p>Alba Utrera Roman (AUR) said that societies are still experiencing problems with room bookings and asked if anything is being done about this. LO asked to respond, to which he said AUSA is working to reduce the costs of room bookings with the University. A further question was asked about how AUSA is planning to improve the room booking system, to which LO said that University room booking is out of AUSA's remit but AUSA's own spaces are easy to book via the reception.</p> <p>Stephen Devlin (SD) commented that many societies like the Comedy Society struggle with room bookings, as the amount of appropriate spaces has decreased in the recent years. LO said that he is happy to speak with any society struggling to find a suitable space for their events.</p> <p>Anna Sophie Tirre (AST) asked a question regarding the transport bookings for sports clubs. AST said that a booking fee is being charged, but what is it being used for and if it for admin, why is it necessary. NB responded that some additional fees are used for admin but most is fed back into societies and clubs. NB said she does not have the exact amounts with her right now but she is happy to get them to AST after.</p> <p>Another student pointed out that the fees are inconsistent, and the exact amounts and reuse of the admin fees should be presented to all clubs. NB said that different club and societies have different fees</p>	
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	<p>depending on their practices, but she is happy to find out more information and distribute it.</p>	
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>10. Democratic review</b></p> <p>DK said as she is part of the Democratic Review working group, she will not chair this part of the agenda. The Vice Chair of Student Council, Rose Lakatos (RL) will chair instead.</p> <p>Esyld Ní Scolaidhe (ENS) proposed a procedural motion to ask the Democratic Review report to be rewritten and returned to NUS as the report was not published in time, three days too late according to ENS.</p> <p>LO pointed out that this procedure is used for Student Council but not specified for AGM. ENS said that according to byelaw 4 the report should be rejected, as what AGM will be voting on was not published on time. LO responded that the Democratic Review is a report not a motion and the results of the survey are meant to be discussed at the AGM. Earlier procedural motion by ENS was seconded.</p> <p>FB pointed out that this is not a valid procedural motion. DK clarified that procedural motions concern Student Council, the byelaw in question is not specific to AGM nor the report.</p> <p>Laura Smith (LS) asked if procedural motions are not used at the AGM. RL clarified that the procedural motion procedure does not apply to this situation, and as interim chair, moved the AGM to a vote on the procedural motion.</p> <p>Votes divided 71 yes, 106 against and 94 abstain. The procedural motion does not pass and the report is heard.</p> <p>NUS consultant Kathryn Sullivan (KS) was invited to speak and present the main points of the report. KS explained that AUSA commissioned a democratic review to be held in the form of a student survey, which was completed by over 800 students. The review also included focus groups. KS mentioned some of the response statistics, for example 58% self-identify as women and 77% are undergraduates. According to the report, majority of students did not know who or what Sabbs are. Students want to be involved, but only third of respondents want to be involved in implementation of policy. 67% wanted an app to make decisions with. KS mentioned that Sabb roles will be slightly changed.</p> <p>KS asked if there were any questions at this point. MK asked if KS could expand some of the questions that had open ended boxes for comments. KS said some further comments were made but they were not statistically relevant.</p>	

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	<p>KS moved to the next part. KS said the report suggests the removal of the Executive Committee and reforming the Student Council for more efficient decision-making. KS mentioned that online decision-making is quite common in other associations now that have had democratic reviews.</p> <p>ENS pointed out that there was no mention of accountability of Sabbatical Officers via general meetings in the report. KS that there are other ways to do this and that students do not have to wait until general meetings to hold Sabbs accountable.</p> <p>KS moved to the next part. KS said that according to the report, no decrease or increase in the number of Sabbs was suggested. A motion to establish a Societies Officer was withdrawn. KS explained the rough remits of the new Sabb roles and highlighted that the names are not fixed.</p> <p>VE asked what the Sabb titles are going to be if not been decided yet. LN said AUSA will most likely run with these names for now but they can be changed later.</p> <p>MK asked for clarification on how the changes approved at the AGM can come into immediate effect if changes can be made later. KS explained that students can make changes later via Student Council. KS also clarified that a constitutional change is not needed.</p> <p>A student asked how the changes aim to improve engagement. KS said that online decision-making, specifically apps were mentioned in the report that should encourage participation.</p> <p>A student asked what the current Sabbs thought about the roles. NB said the new Sports role is essentially the same. LN said she slightly disagrees with the new remit as it seems too much for one person. LO and the Education Officer Donna Connelly (DC) both agree with the new role remits.</p> <p>MK asked if there has been an increase in participation in other associations who have gone through a similar review. KS said that overall, yes, but the whole democratic structure review will have to support this process and that the Sabb role changes cannot improve it on its own.</p> <p>Ivana Drdakova (ID) asked why there were no recommendations about a Societies Officer role. KS said that this would require constitutional change that is not possible this year.</p> <p>FB pointed out that if there is a shift to direct representation from representative, why have the forums not been mentioned. KS said that liberation and section forum representatives will automatically be involved with the new Student Council.</p> <p>JS proposed a procedural motion to move the meeting to a vote, which was seconded and after, supported by a majority vote.</p>	
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	<p>RL as the interim chair moved the meeting to a vote on the Democratic Review report. A simple majority was achieved but quorum was lost simultaneously. Due to quorum not being met, the vote result is not valid.</p> <p><i>DK resumed as chair and explained that further matters will not be discussed as quorum is not met.</i></p> <p>Representatives of both the Arab house society and the Palestine society asked why motions were last on the agenda and if the vote could continue without quorum. DK responded that the meeting cannot continue without quorum and the agenda follows the usual AGM agenda structure, referring to the purpose of the AGM which is to present annual accounts and reports and hold Trustees accountable.</p> <p>LS and FB suggested that according to byelaws, the Trustee Board can call a general meeting where the motions could be discussed. LO responded that the Trustee Board needs to discuss this. After a brief discussion, LO informed that the Board is happy to call for a general meeting for next week, the same date and time. LO said location will be announced as soon as it is confirmed. LO mentioned that the general meeting will need 250 students present to reach quorum.</p> <p>A student asked how this will affect the elections, to which LN responded that Sabb elections will go ahead with the current roles.</p> <p>Many students asked that the motions be discussed first in the general meeting. A student asked if societies and clubs will have to have 2 representatives at the new meeting. DK responded that motions will be discussed at the beginning and no, societies and clubs will not have to send representatives.</p> <p>DK closed the meeting.</p>	
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