

**Queen Margaret University Students' Union
Third Student Parliament Meeting
2nd March 2010 4.30pm**

The third Student Parliament Meeting was due to meet on Tuesday 23rd February 2010. However, it was not quorate; the Chair and Student President decided to recall Student Parliament in order to debate and vote three motions on the agenda.

Quorum for the re called Student Parliament Meeting has been reduced to 15 members at the discretion of Student President.

Present (15 MSPs in attendance):

Megan O'Carroll (MOC), Mhairi Steele (MS), Rio Floreza (RF), Andrew Mc Clean (AMC), Cecily Borgstein (CB), Ben Green (BG), Kenneth Robertson (KR), Ada Pagan (AP), Abel Horvath (AH), Iona Geddes (IG), Iain Rowan (IR), Kate Dickie (KD), Daniel Foy (DF), Fergus Boden (FB), Kathleen Lloyd (KL).

Apologies:

James Holdcroft (JH), Arnaud Philibert (AP), Hazel Veitch (HV), Sian Downes (SD).

In Attendance:

Cecile Guilloteau (CG), Kate Hogg (KH).

1. Introduction (4.30pm)

The Chair Megan O'Carroll opened the re called Third Student Parliament Meeting, welcomed all MSPs in attendance and presented apologies for MSPs unable to attend.

She reminded MSPs the last Student Parliament Meeting was not quorate and the re called meeting will focus on three specific motions.

At this moment, Student Parliament was not quorate yet. Only 14 MSPs were in attendance. Chair Megan O'Carroll said to MSPs that the Student President would present the motion and consult them before making his own decision.

Student President Rio Floreza outlined it was a shame not being able to make democratic decisions. He reminded to MSPs in attendance that decisions will be made by the Executive Committee.

2. Motion: Sabbatical Remuneration Package

Student President, Rio Floreza introduced the first motion on the agenda. Sabbatical Officers are employed by The Students' Union and not considered by

the University as full time students. As a consequence they have to pay council tax.

Rio Floreza explained that the issue had been brought to Student Parliament previously in the past years but it had not been solved yet.

Student President stated that sabbatical officers will no longer be exempt from council tax. However a broader remuneration package with further benefits will be offered.

The presented motion aims to offer to the two Sabbatical Officers an honorarium of £15,033, a Young Person Railcard (if eligible) and a mobile phone/laptop contract.

Despite not vote could be made, all MSPs agreed with Student President Rio Floreza.

3. Motion: The Students' Union Annual General Meeting

Student President, Rio Floreza, presented the motion regarding the Annual General Meeting.

At the moment, the Annual General Meeting is held early in the Academic Year during a busy time for The Students' Union.

In addition to be at a less busy time, holding the AGM in April is more relevant. It comes at the end of the Academic Year which would allow the Sabbatical Officers to report on the year and the newly elected Sabbatical Officers to present their plans for the forthcoming year.

The Chair, Co Chair and Secretary, as well as the Liberation MSPs will be elected at the AGM, and Academic Positions co opted at the first Student Parliament Meeting.

No MSP contested the motion relating to an AGM at the end of each academic year.

4. Motion: Frequency of Student Parliament Meeting

Student President, Rio Floreza, presented his aim to reduce the number of Student Parliament Meeting to 4 meetings a year instead of 5 as currently.

The reduction is due to two main reasons:

- With an AGM in the second semester it is logistically difficult to have three Student Parliament Meeting during the second semester
- Reducing meetings will increase Members of Student Parliament Attendance

The reduction of Student Parliament Meetings created an active debate between MSPs.

Megan O'Carroll disagreed with the idea that fewer meetings will increase attendance. MSPs who want to attend Student Parliament would attend meetings whatever the number of meetings a year. Some MSPs agreed with her.

Daniel Foy questioned Rio Floreza on the impact of the trustee governance review towards Student Parliament and the Executive Committee responsibilities.

Rio Floreza highlighted that the new Trustee Board will give more work and responsibility to the two Sabbatical Officers but will leave more time to Part Time Officers to focus on their remits.

(4.50pm) A fifteenth MSP came in attendance during the debate on the third motion. The meeting was from this time quorate and decisions could be made democratically.

Kenneth Robertson noticed that the lack of attendance was more due to a lack of marketing on Student Parliament purpose rather than the number of times Student Parliament meets.

Ben Green expressed his disagreement with the fact that reducing the number of meetings would reduce attendance.

Andrew Mc Clean, Vice President, reminded that the aim of the motion is reduce the minimal number of meetings a year. There will be still room for Student Parliament to meet more than 4 times a year and to organize extraordinary meeting.

Chair of Student Parliament, Megan O'Carroll, announced that Student Parliament was quorate.

Rio Floreza added a new argument to his motion i.e. date and time for Student Parliament Meetings are announced early in the academic year and remain constant. MSPs who want to attend can arrange to attend.

In response to Andrew Mc Clean, Megan O'Carroll argued that reducing at 4 the minimal number of Student Parliament Meetings will not encourage MSPs to meet more than 4 times a year.

Rio Floreza closed the debate stating that the lack of attendance was more linked to a marketing issue than to how often MSPs meet.

5. Votes

Megan O' Carroll opened votes for the three motions.

Motion on Frequency of Student Parliament Meeting:

- Yes: 8
- No: 7

Motion passed on simple majority

Motion on Sabbatical Remuneration Package; Unanimously passed

Motion on The Students' Union Annual General Meeting: Unanimously passed

6. AOCB and close

Before closing the meeting Chair Megan O'Carroll reminded MSPs the forthcoming Mental Health Campaign and the Well Being Fayre she is organizing.

The Chair thanks all MSPs for their attendance, reminded the date of next meeting and closed the meeting.