

STUDENT EXECUTIVE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2026

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT (7)

In-person: Isabella Cook, Cameron Fields (Chair), Vignesh Kumar, Holly McAdams (VP Academic), Meng Wu.

Online: Mayowa Okanlawon, Simone Spence.

APOLOGIES (2)

Emily Paton, Vincent Pemberton (Sports Union President).

NOT PRESENT (1)

Reuben Simon.

IN ATTENDANCE

Jay Brown (SEC Academic, Clerk),

Eliot Wooding-Sherwin (SEC Projects & Campaigns),

Freya Richards and Taymiyah Kahn (Student campaigners).

SUMMARY OF ALL MEETING DECISIONS

Ethical Supply Chains is **approved** as a Union Recognised Campaign.

Fossil Free careers is **not approved** as a Union Recognised campaign.

The bus campaign is **approved** as a Union Recognised Campaign.

The anti-prevent policy is **re-approved**.

The BDS policy was voted to **lapse** and will no longer be SU policy.

The byelaws are **approved**.

MEETING START

CF led introductions.

As the meeting is not quorate, all votes will be ratified following the meeting.

Minutes from the last meeting to be circulated and approved in Teams.

Accessible here: [Dec 2025 Minutes.docx](#)

STUDENT UNION-RECOGNISED CAMPAIGNS

ETHICAL SUPPLY CHAINS

Presented by Freya Richards.

FR - The campaign has undergone reworks. Focussed on strengthening transparency and ethical accountability around supply chains on campus and ethical consumerism.

The campaign has had engagement with the head of hospitality to look at procuring different catering suppliers and its procurement through APUC and TUCO and their established ethical sustainability checks in place. While these processes are in place, they should be more representative of the student voice with increased student presence during consultation

The campaign seeks to embed ethical criteria into future procurement cycles rather than ending all contracts just now.

This matters to students as boycotts are ongoing for these brands independently which is losing money for the university – students should have a voice in where money goes on campus. Ultimately aligning institutional priorities with ethical engagement.

Questions from Exec

MO – Ethics is broad and differs between individuals, how do you define your boundaries for ethics? Who sets those rules on what is good and what is bad?

FR – Not solely a political campaign, the governance and social responsibility of the university are also important given the university's prior statements. It isn't solely

about support for Palestine, it expands into issues such as workers' rights and modern slavery (Starbucks concerns noted).

IC – Has there been much thought regarding cost in terms of making those changes? In the current climate we're in raising costs shouldn't be up for consideration so there are concerns this would happen if there were changes to suppliers

FR – Rising costs are inevitable given the current climate. In terms of this campaign, looking into different contracts with ethical approved suppliers list and whether there is a cost difference and whether there would be an increase – main goal is to keep students at the heart.

CF – Student Union in Glasgow Caledonian used to sell coca-cola and switched to Barr cola with similar pricing

HM – Is there an opportunity to look at local business? Who would represent in these committee spaces?

FR – Will take a closer look at where there is space for a student voice, has already been in contact with university staff to receive more information on contacting procurement agencies used by the university.

CF – What resourcing would they want the SU to support with?

FR – Recognition of the campaign, awareness raising around the campaign to recruit students and allow for challenge and campaign development, particularly from the Student President role

[CF thanked FR for joining. FR left the room for discussion and voting to take place]

Exec discussion

Some members of exec are supportive of the campaign as it is in a clearer position and does not require a lot of student union resources.

A couple of exec members note they are concerned around who faces increased costs as the university won't absorb this. The campaign goals could be more specific but overall supported.

Exec members recommend adding 'Where appropriate' to any written proposals and to research costs

Decision - APPROVED

For – 6 (incl. 1 post-meeting)

Against – 1

Abstain – 1

FOSSIL FREE CAREERS AT HWU

Presented by Taymiyah Khan.

TK – This campaign follows on previous campaign to divest from fossil fuels which was successful – this is done in collaboration with People and Planet. This policy aims to increase the fossil fuel ranking of HWU.

Policy would either phase out or exclude companies (250 involved in fossil fuels). The careers policy in place already has an exclusion such as companies that don't do living wage, etc.

This would ideally include arms companies as well

23 universities have become fossil free – official careers don't introduce fossil fuel companies, but departments can themselves, blocking out main advertisement. This means students will see more sustainable companies first.

About 17 or 18 SUs have passed a motion agreeing with the campaign including EUSA. 75% have divested from fossil fuels, it's newer and there's a push for careers services to update their policies

Questions from exec

MW – Have you discussed this with the University? There are a lot of barriers in terms of monitoring students.

TK – Universities are actively trying to monitor students who disagree, this campaign will be difficult to pull through hence the request for SU support. If this can happen in a few years and a commitment can at least be made, this would be ideal

As students we should be allowed to have a campaign like this that shows support for this cause

VK – If we're shortening the companies, how are we addressing the limits this puts on student employment?

TK – The career service can still support with career prep etc for these companies and departments can still introduce these companies through alumni and their own events. It also isn't likely that these companies will reject applicants because of this

HM – Out of the 250 companies, what is the % that comes to HWU?

TK – Will double check.

HM – On the policy, arms companies is missing from the rest of the policy apart from the beginning? Do you want arms companies included in the policy?

TK – Yes. Fossil fuels are the starting point.

SS – Are there any relationships that you're worried about outside recruitment opportunities?

TK – The campaign is focussed on when contracts end, we're asking the University to not renew those contracts.

[CF thanked TK for joining. TK left the call for discussion and voting to take place]

Exec Discussion

Some exec members felt the remaining ability for departments to promote companies addressed some of the previous concerns over student recruitment.

Other exec members are still concerned about reducing networking opportunities.

Some exec members feel that by working for big fossil fuel companies students will be able to make big changes.

Some exec members would have liked to see data on how the overall student population feels about this issue. In response, an exec member explained that a lot of these campaigns are coming from student societies, so they aren't just from individuals. They can't be dismissed just because there is one person leading the voice.

Some exec members believe that these companies won't disappear following NetZero and will adapt regardless. Could there instead be a focus on educating students to make their own choice?

Decision – NOT APPROVED

For – 2

Against – 5 (incl. 1 post-meeting)

Abstain – 1

BUS CAMPAIGN

One exec member is keen to know whether the proposed X25 would do the whole route or whether it would be started mid-route?

Another member suggested the campaign also requests an extra 25 bus that completes the same route.

Decision – APPROVED

For – 7

Against – 1 post-meeting.

POLICIES

ANTI-PREVENT POLICY

This policy was discussed previously as all policies are reviewed on a yearly basis. Exec members asked to see some more specific Heriot-Watt data. It was not possible to get some more data as this isn't something the Prevent or the university share.

Some exec members asked how the policy works in action. CF responded saying that it originated a while back, is mostly there as a safety net for Union's to fall back on.

Exec members agreed that the anti-prevent policy should remain policy but needs some work. For example, if students are referred to the Prevent programme, the SU should be aware and should be able to defend students who are referred.

Decision – REAPPROVED

For – 6

Against – 1

Abstain – 1 post-meeting.

TRANS INCLUSION POLICY

This is a new policy that is being developed. The SU already operates on inclusion for trans and NB students, but a policy will be developed to reflect it following consultation.

The union will work with the LGBTQ+ society where appropriate

BDS POLICY

Policy reviews have been in place via focus groups. Following discussion, the consensus seemed to be that we should lapse the BDS policy and instead establish two new policies – one around support for Palestine and the other around ethical consumption. These will be taken to student groups (society leaders, DOs for consideration)

Thus, the suggestion is to lapse current policy so that it doesn't interfere with the new ones.

Decision – NOT APPROVED, LAPSED

For – 1 post-meeting

Against – 6

Abstain – 1

BYELAWS

There have been a couple of tweaks to the byelaws to clarify processes within the Union.

The byelaws have been approved by the trustee board.

Decision – APPROVED

For – 7 (including 1 post meeting)

Abstain – 1

UPDATE ON SAUDI CAMPUS

CF and HM met with various stakeholder in the plan including; university leads on the proposal and the KSA ambassador.

A decision has been made through University Court; however, an NDA is in place and therefore this cannot be shared for now. The university has been asked for a deadline on when they can discuss with student exec.

Regardless of the outcome the SU should work with the Union to ensure the safety of students and the reputation of the university.

AOCB AND DONM

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Exec members confirmed they would support all meeting paper to be received in one big document instead of individual papers.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Eliot will arrange the next meeting for the week commencing 13th April.