



**WHAT ARE
YOUR IDEAS
FOR CHANGE
AT RGU?**

**MOTIONS
& PAPERS
BOOKLET**

**THURSDAY 2ND MARCH 2023
4:30PM - RGU UNION LEVEL 3 OR
ONLINE AT [RGUUNION.CO.UK/AGM](https://rguunion.co.uk/agm)**



WELCOME

WHAT IS A MOTION?

A motion, very basically, is an idea. It is a line of text that asks the Union to do something to make a difference for students. If you think there is a project or a campaign that the Union should be running, and isn't, then you have the power to submit a motion for the change you want to see.

At this year's AGM we will discuss and vote on seven motions, all of which have been submitted by RGU students.

I WANT TO CHANGE PART OF A MOTION

If you would like to suggest a change to part of a motion, then you can do this by submitting an amendment.

Amendments can be submitted before the AGM through the Union's website (www.rguunion.co.uk/agm), or you can wait and submit your amendment during the AGM, at the start of the motion discussion.

MOTION 1
**PROPOSAL FOR
SOLO AND DUAL WORK
POD STATIONS**

MOTION 2
**SPACES FOR MENTAL
HEALTH, RELAXATION
AND WELLNESS**

MOTION 3
**MULTI FAITH
FACILITIES**

MOTION 4
**SUPPORT THE 'DIVEST
FROM FOSSIL FUELS'
CAMPAIGN**

MOTION 5
**INCREASE RGU
ACCOMMODATION
PROVISION FOR
FAMILIES**

MOTION 6
**AFFORDABLE BUS
TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS
OVER 21**

MOTION 7
**INSUFFICIENT
ALLOCATION OF
STUDENT PARKING
PERMITS**

CONTENTS & AGENDA



TODAY'S AGENDA

1. Welcome from Chair and quorum count
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes from the previous AGM [VOTE]
4. Matters arising from the previous AGM
5. Student President & Vice President update
6. Trustee Board update
7. Governance and finance
 - Constitutional matters [VOTE]
 - Draft statutory accounts [VOTE]
 - Affiliations and donations [VOTE]
8. Student Ideas/Motions
 - Motion 1. Proposal for solo and dual work pod stations. [VOTE]
 - Motion 2. Spaces for mental health, relaxation and wellness. [VOTE]
 - Motion 3. Multi faith facilities [VOTE]
 - Motion 4. Support the 'Divest from Fossil Fuels' campaign. [VOTE]
 - Motion 5. Increase RGU accommodation provision for families. [VOTE]
 - Motion 6. Affordable bus travel for students over 21. [VOTE]
 - Motion 7. Insufficient allocation of student parking permits. [VOTE]
9. Announcements
10. AOB

QUESTIONS

If you have a question for a member of the Union Exec, please raise your hand (on Teams or in the room) or you can submit via the text chat in the meeting.



MINUTE OF 2022 AGM

MINUTE OF THE 2022 RGU:UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT 4:30PM ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2022 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

ATTENDANCE

Student Body Assembly General (219 ordinary members signed in), including:

Laila Obiagwu (LO), Chair, President (Communication and Democracy); Joel Adebajo (JA), Vice President (Sport); Damilola Adesanya (DA), President (Education and Welfare); Oluwafunmilola Akinoso (OA), Vice President (International); Greg Millar (GMI), Vice President (Welfare); Jordan Moore (JM), President (Sport and Physical Activity); Ribh O'Neill (RO), Vice President (Community); and, Calvin Park (CP), Student Trustee.

Also in attendance (non-voting):

Filippo Antoniazzi (FA), RGU Director of Student Life; Debbie Booth (DB), Union Operations Coordinator; Jordan Creasey (JC), Union Advice and Administration Co-ordinator; Graeme Clark (GC), Union Finance Officer; Hannah Leslie (HL), RGU Head of Sport; Gregor Mailer (GM), Union Chief Executive Officer; Caitlin Sellars (CS), Union Digital Marketing Placement; Jo Taylor (JT), Union Operations Coordinator; Euan Walker (EW), Union Student Development and Volunteering Co-ordinator; Josie Watson (JW), Union Marketing Manager; and, Ryan Winterburn (RW), Union Media Placement.

1. WELCOME AND QUORUM COUNT

LO opened the meeting after quoracy was reached at 16:30hrs. LO welcomed and thanked those in attendance for coming.

2. APOLOGIES

LO noted apologies from two Ordinary Members and from the Union's Vice President (Societies) and Vice President (Education).

3. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

No constitutional matters for recommendation to the Trustee Board were received.

4. MINUTE OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

A vote was held to approve the minute of the 2020/2021 Union Annual General Meeting, held Tuesday 18th February 2021.

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The minute of the 2020/2021 RGU:Union Annual General Meeting was approved.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS AGM

DA gave an update on motions passed at the 2020/2021 Union Annual General Meeting, as outlined in the AGM booklet provided to every member present, and detailed the following:

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- **European Student Group:** The Union is aiming to work with the International Student Group (ISG) to ensure its structure is fit for purpose and that adequate representation exists at committee level. This will allow activities targeting European students to be delivered by the ISG.
- **Classes on a Wednesday Afternoon:** The University Executive has committed to keeping Wednesday afternoons free in order to allow students to participate in extra-curricular activities.
- **Equal Resources and Additional Support for Students:** The Union has stationery/study resources which will soon be available to order for free via the Union website. A review of the Union's second-hand bookshop shall be undertaken with a view to see it transition into a free 'book exchange' initiative.
- **Transgender and Non-Binary Rights:** The Union has been working with the University Estates department to progress work on gender neutral bathrooms. All single occupancy toilet facilities on campus have been designated as gender neutral. The University has committed to ensuring gender-neutral toilets are included in plans for any new developments. The Union aims to ensure the LGBTQIA+ Network are informed of any progress in this area.
- **Student Climate Assembly:** The return to on-campus activities has allowed the Union to begin work on development of this motion with RGU Go Green. Initial planning discussions are taking place with operational models utilised by local community-based assemblies being explored.
- **Climate Literacy:** The Union is exploring opportunities, alongside RGU Go Green and the University's Sustainability Manager, to roll out workshop sessions. Further work is required regarding the curriculum-focused aim of the motion.
- **Climate Emergency:** The Union acknowledges a gap in expertise within the team regarding the delivery of sustainability-based projects. Action will be taken to work with RGU Go Green to deliver this motion and to declare a climate emergency, with a view to addressing the resource gap as a long-term aim.
- **International Student Hardship Support:** The Union has worked directly with the University on hardship support, and as a result a fund has been established to support international students suffering from financial hardship.
- **Online Study Group Sessions:** The President (Education & Welfare) produced materials to assist SSOs and Class Reps with the delivery of online study group sessions. These were rolled out Semester One and will be refreshed and reissued in Semester Two (ahead of assessment periods).
- **Tuition Fees Discount & Rebates for All Fee-Paying Students:** The Union held discussions with the University on this, with NUS also raising concerns at a national level. The University agreed to cover hotel-managed international quarantine costs via an equivalent discount on tuition fees.
- **Student IT Feedback Framework:** The Union has held discussions regarding this motion with the University IT Services department. The Union hopes to confirm a framework/structure of feedback sessions and to begin meetings during Semester Two. A feedback form can also be found on the Union website (under Student Voice) to allow for feedback to be submitted for discussion at the Student Voice Forum or at relevant University committee-level discussions.

DA provided further updates on additional work undertaken, as outlined in the AGM booklet provided to every member present, and detailed the following:



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DA provided further updates on additional work undertaken, as outlined in the AGM booklet provided to every member present, and detailed the following:

- Bus Stop Accessibility Problem: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the bus stop was temporarily reconfigured by the University Estates department which led to a temporary alleviation to the issue. Estates are monitoring the situation with a view to identifying workable solutions as restrictions ease.
- Eliminate Student Hunger...: The Union has secured SFC funding (Scottish Funding Council) for the purpose of enhancing student welfare and wellbeing projects. This has been allocated to the development of a foodbank initiative and the Union aims to progress/launch this project as swiftly as possible.
- Multi Faith Prayer Room in SIWB: This has been raised with the University's Estates department. However, significant space issues exist within SIWB and it is proving difficult to identify a suitable location. There is potential to explore a solution within the new Union space and this is currently being discussed.
- Install Reverse Vending Machines on Campus: The Union is working with the University Estates department and Aramark, campus catering contractor, to review vending options.
- Society Productivity Suite Upgrade: The Union continues to explore enhancements and improvements to the online tools provided to student activities.
- Bring Back RGU's Social Spaces and a Bar: The Union has relocated to the Georgina Scott Sutherland Centre within ABS. The new Union location allows for the development of new facilities and new opportunities for all RGU students. The space spans 3 floors and has collaborative workspaces, social areas and spaces for the hosting of events.

LO invited questions from the floor.

No questions were raised.

6. EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

A video was shown of Executive Committee members reporting on their activity for the 2020/21 term.

LO invited questions for the Executive Committee from the floor.

No questions were raised.

7. TRUSTEE BOARD UPDATE

JM presented an update from the Trustee Board which detailed the following:

- Trustee Board Membership: Nazan Ünlütürk resigned as External Trustee in 2021 and Jo Hall was appointed in 2022 to fill the vacant role. Three new Student Trustees were also elected during the Union's November by election, with Calvin Park, Confidence Amuda, and Opeyemi Adedeji joining the board early 2022.
- Union Finance Review and Management: The Trustee Board manages the finances of the Union on a quarterly basis and approves its budget annually. The Board also considers how the Union manages

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its reserves and how it undertakes its statutory audit. Henderson Loggie continues to act as the Union's auditors.

- Regular Review of Risk and Related Procedures: The Trustee Board reviews perceived risks to the Union quarterly and ensures appropriate procedures are in place to protect the charity, its staff, and its members. The most significant risk has been identified as an inherited and on-going pension liability obligation.
- Education Act (1994) Compliance: Representatives from the Trustee Board met with University senior management to provide an update on the work of the Union and to provide assurances that the Union complies with law as written in our Code of Practice and the Education Act (1994).
- Significant Project and Initiative Support: The Trustee Board meet quarterly to review Union operations and to provide support with regards to major projects or initiatives, such as: discussions around social space development; guidance and assistance with identifying and maximising external funding; long-term planning; and, review of governance documentation, internal policies and procedures.

JM invited questions from the floor.

- A member asked what is needed to become a trustee. JM provided the following overview: The Sabbatical Officers serve as ex officio Sabbatical Trustees; a member of RGU staff is appointed University Trustee by the University; 5 Ordinary Members are elected and/or appointed as Student Trustees; and, 4 external persons are recruited as External Trustees.

No further questions were raised.

8. FINANCE

Financial statements relating to the previous academic session, in the form of the 2020/2021 Draft Statutory Accounts, were presented to the floor by GM and provided in the AGM booklet given to every member present.

GM invited questions from the floor.

No questions were raised.

A vote was held to approve the 2020/2021 Draft Statutory Accounts.

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The 2020/2021 Draft Statutory Accounts were approved.

9. AFFILIATIONS AND DONATIONS

A list of the external organisations to which the Union is currently affiliated was presented by GM and provided in the AGM booklet given to every member present. The list contained the details of subscriptions, similar fees paid or donations made to organisations in the 2020/2021 session.

GM invited questions from the floor.

No questions were raised.



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A vote was held to approve the list of external organisations to which the Union is currently affiliated to, which contained details of subscriptions, similar fees paid and donations made to such organisations in the past year

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The list of external organisations to which the Union is currently affiliated to, which contained details of subscriptions, similar fees paid and donations made to such organisations in the past year, was approved.

10. MOTIONS

LO explained motion procedure in line with the Union regulations.

MOTION 1: Inadequate Job Opportunities for International Students.

Proposer: Patricia Nkem Innocent

Seconder: Yashree Thakorbhai Patel

No amendments were submitted to the motion either through submission in advance of the AGM or through submission at the start of the motion discussion.

The Motion Proposer gave an opening statement in favour of the motion, stating job opportunities for international students were limited and that international students should be introduced to organisation at the time of enrolment with regards to working opportunities. The Motion Proposer also stated that career opportunities should be showcased from the first semester in addition to the second, and that work placements should be introduced in all departments in order to provide international students the opportunity to gather experience in their chosen field of study.

There were no arguments against the motion.

Motion discussion closed.

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The motion was passed.

MOTION 2: Improve Cooking Facilities at 53.3 Degrees in Gray's.

Proposer: Ruth Wilson

Seconder: Rebecca Rae

An amendment was submitted to the Sabbatical Executive Committee prior to the meeting but was not put forward for discussion and voting. The Sabbatical Executive Committee ruled that the amendment failed to meet the criteria for approval. LO stated the amendment amended the motion in such a way that impacted upon the motion's core aim.

The amendment was not approved.

No further amendments were submitted to the motion

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The Motion Proposer and Motion Secunder were not in attendance. LO introduced the motion on their behalf and stated that in Gray's only one person operates the coffee bar (the only place in the building to buy lunch) and can only cook two food items at any one time, which can result in long wait times for students accessing lunch. LO noted that it is proposed that the Union works with Aramark to ensure appropriate serving equipment is in place at Gray's to reduce excessive wait times.

There were no arguments against the motion.

Motion discussion closed.

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The motion was passed.

MOTION 3: Carbon Footprint Sign.

Proposer: Lorina Dupuy

Secunder: Maja Huebers

No amendments were submitted to the motion either through submission in advance of the AGM or through submission at the start of the motion discussion.

The Motion Proposer gave an opening statement in favour of the motion, stating global warming is huge challenge and Robert Gordon University has considerable work to do before becoming sustainable. The Motion Proposer stated they want to see the University move towards an eco-friendly system and that they want to see actions and not just talks. The Motion Proposer noted the aim to have the University display its annual carbon footprint (in a form of a graph and with comparison to other UK universities) in on-campus buildings as well as available online.

There were no arguments against the motion.

Motion discussion closed.

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The motion was passed.

MOTION 4: Trans and Non-binary Inclusivity Training for Staff.

Proposer: Maike Wilschnack

Secunder: Kieran Soutter

No amendments were submitted to the motion either through submission in advance of the AGM or through submission at the start of the motion discussion.

The Motion Proposer gave an opening statement in favour of the motion, stating not enough progress has been made on a motion passed last year that requested RGU do more to provide for the trans community. The Motion Proposer stated both students and staff do not have the necessary information/training with regards to LGBTQIA+ rights which can lead to issues, such as misgendering and incorrect pronoun usage. The Motion Proposer stated that training should be provided for staff and students on the rights and experiences of trans and non-binary individuals and that everyone in the RGU community should work together to make RGU safer and more inclusive.



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Motion discussion closed.

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The motion was passed.

MOTION 5: Unrealistic Assessment Schedule.

Proposer: Jayne Smith

Seconder: Ellen Morrissey

An amendment was submitted to the Sabbatical Executive Committee prior to the meeting but was not put forward for discussion and voting. The Sabbatical Executive Committee ruled that the amendment failed to meet the criteria for approval. LO stated the amendment amended the motion in such a way that impacted upon the motion's core aim.

The amendment was not approved.

No further amendments were submitted to the motion

The Motion Proposer gave an opening statement in favour of the motion, stating the current assessment schedule is not manageable and cited a student survey indicated 90% were in favour of reverting to the previous assessment schedule. The Motion Proposer noted that the change in assessment schedule has severely impacted their cohort and has resulted in higher numbers of extensions being granted and has impacted on the mental health of students.

A member spoke in favour of the motion, stating that they have received feedback from fellow students indicating that the change in assessment schedule has impacted upon grades and that reverting back to the original assessment schedule would be preferred.

The Motion Proposer gave a closing statement, stating reverting to having assessments split over December and January would afford students the flexibility to complete all the assessments prior to Christmas (if they desired) or work on assessments due in January in late December/early January. The Motion Proposer noted that tutors have been supportive of reverting the assessment schedule back, and noted that if reverting is not possible, then their course will require serious adaptations to compensate for the fact that assessments have been brought forward.

There were no arguments against the motion.

Motion discussion closed.

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The motion was passed.

No Ordinary Member challenged the decision of the Chair.

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MOTION 6: Timetable Flexibility for Student Parents.

Proposer: Emily Robertson

Seconder: Felicity Miller

An amendment was submitted to the Sabbatical Executive Committee at the meeting regarding 'student parent hybrid learning flexibility' but was not put forward for discussion and voting. The Sabbatical Executive Committee ruled that the amendment failed to meet the criteria for approval. LO stated the amendment amended the motion in such a way that impacted upon the motion's core aim, but noted that she will follow up with the member to discuss further support outwith the meeting.

The amendment was not approved.

An amendment was submitted to the Sabbatical Executive Committee at the meeting regarding 'childcare centre' but was not put forward for discussion and voting. The Sabbatical Executive Committee ruled that the amendment failed to meet the criteria for approval. LO stated the amendment amended the motion in such a way that impacted upon the motion's core aim, but noted that she will follow up with the member to discuss childcare support outwith the meeting.

The amendment was not approved.

No further amendments were submitted to the motion

The Motion Proposer gave an opening statement in favour of the motion, stating student parents are not being adequately considered when timetables are being set and that student parents should be empowered to be able to attend university without having additional worries (i.e. childcare fees, school runs etc). The Motion Proposer stated the aim is not for preferential treatment to be given to student parents but instead to ensure student parents are able to effectively undertake their studies and that consideration is actively being given to students with childcare commitments during the timetable setting process.

The Motion Seconder spoke to the motion, stating that they have had discussions with the University on hybrid learning and online alternative learning but that the response has been that the University's courses are accredited for on-campus learning, which may make it difficult to facilitate online study for student parents. The Motion Seconder also noted that a nursery exists on campus but conceded that wait times are quite long and that this centre is also not for the benefit of student parents with school-age children.

A member spoke to the motion, stating that consideration for early-years learning should also be given to the local council and to what is possible when discussing nursery/childcare centres.

There were no arguments against the motion.

The Motion Proposer gave a closing statement, stating this would allow the University to become more inclusive and would allow student parents to get back into education quicker and (i.e. not postponing higher education studies until after dependants are older).

Motion discussion closed.

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The motion was passed.



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MOTION 7: Parking on Campus (1).

Proposer: Emily Robertson

Seconder: Felicity Miller

No amendments were submitted to the motion either through submission in advance of the AGM or through submission at the start of the motion discussion.

The Motion Proposer gave an opening statement in favour of the motion, stating the current permit system is not fit for practice and noted that for student parents it is sometimes impossible to get to class on time. The Motion Proposer stated the permit system should be reviewed and that it would be worth developing a parking management application to ensure that parking facilities are fair and inclusive for both staff and students.

There were no arguments against the motion.

Motion discussion closed.

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The motion was passed.

MOTION 8: Parking on Campus (2).

Proposer: Jessica McRorie

Seconder: Hollie Hunter

No amendments were submitted to the motion either through submission in advance of the AGM or through submission at the start of the motion discussion.

The Motion Proposer and Motion Seconder were not in attendance. LO introduced the motion on their behalf and stated that for students who have primarily online coursework it is not worth paying for a year's parking permit when those students are on campus for about a week a year. LO stated the aim of the motion is for the Union to campaign for the removal of all parking permits and charges.

There were no arguments against the motion.

Motion discussion closed.

Voting was decided by LO based on electronic voting.

The motion was passed.

12 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

DA made the following announcement:

- Student Elections shall be held shortly with the nomination period running from 10/03/2022 through to 24/03/2022 and the voting period running from 30/03/2022 through to 01/04/2022. Nominations for positions run in the election can be submitted via the Union website.

- The National Student Survey (NSS) is currently live and students are encouraged to complete it.

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- The nomination period for the RGU Partnership Awards has commenced and shall close 07/03/2022. Students can nominate themselves or others to be considered for the awards. Nominations can be submitted via the Union website.

JM made the following announcements:

- Granite City Challenge, which is an AUSA and RGU:Union varsity event, shall take place on 16/03/2022.

- Student Achievement Awards Ball shall take place on 02/04/2022 and tickets are on sale now and can be purchased via the Union website.

- Blues Ball shall take place on 26/03/2022 and is open to all sports club members.

13 - AOCB

A member stated that she has received feedback related to student issues concerning the accessing of appropriate accommodation. LO thanked the member for raising the issue, and encouraged all students to contact her directly with any accommodation issues to see what support can be provided from the Union and the University.

A member requested the University bolster its international cuisine provisions and also noted RGU-branded merchandise should also be made available. LO thanked the member for raising the issues, and noted that she is currently holding discussions with catering and that the bolstering of international cuisine provisions is being discussed. LO added that RGU-branded merchandise can currently be purchased through the Union website.

A member stated there are limited classes and spaces which can be used to meet with other students, and that some students find it difficult to integrate with fellow students and their cohort. LO encouraged the member to contact DA directly who would be able to address their concerns.

No other competent business was raised.

The meeting closed at 19:00hrs



MATTERS ARISING FROM 2022 AGM

INADEQUATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Members of the Union team have worked closely with the University's Employability Hub to ensure that suitable job opportunities can be sourced and promoted effectively to international students. Steps taken include the introduction of a part-time jobs fair in the Union during semester one, with around 20 different employers in attendance. Advisors from the Employability Hub also host regular drop-in sessions within the Union to provide advice and support to all students regarding job searches, CV guidance and more. Looking ahead it is hoped that more jobs fairs and similar events can take place at different points throughout the academic year to assist those who start in January and May.

IMPROVE COOKING FACILITIES AT 53.3 DEGREES IN GRAY'S

All three Student Presidents meet quarterly with key members of staff from the University's Estates, Contracts and Procurement teams alongside Aramark, who provide all catering services across the campus. This point was raised with these groups following the Union's AGM in 2022, at which point a limited catering offering was being provided in each building on campus due to a phased return to activity following Covid restrictions. The campus catering outlets, including Gray's School of Art, are now providing a full service to students with upgrades currently taking place across a number of outlets.

CARBON FOOTPRINT SIGN

The University has recently launched its 'RGU Net Zero' strategy which contains a number of priorities, including 'net zero campus', 'academic offer' and 'thought leadership and innovation', with a campus-wide approach being taken with a view to support the Scotland-wide ambition to achieve net zero emissions by 2045. Effective communication of these messages and wider awareness of the University's progress towards its targets has been discussed by the Project Zero Board, which contains Union representation, and a communications and marketing plan is being developed to cover campus and digital touch-points.

TRANS AND NON BINARY INCLUSIVITY TRAINING FOR STAFF

This has been followed up internally with the Union team initially, and a training and workshop session focused on trans and non-binary inclusivity, awareness and support was provided for Union staff and Student Presidents in conjunction with the RGU Peer Support student-led group. Members of the Union team are now working with the University's staff EDI Advisor with a view to offering similar sessions to RGU staff.

MATTERS ARISING FROM 2022 AGM



UNREALISTIC ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

This has been raised with University senior management. Assessment principals at the University have been agreed upon, and work has taken place to ensure sufficient time is maintained between assessments. It has also been noted that this motion affects all students and so effective solutions that meets the needs of all students have been sought.

TIMETABLE FLEXIBILITY FOR STUDENT PARENTS

This has been raised with University senior management and feeds into a larger project entitled 'The Future of Teaching & Learning'. This includes a review of current timetabling practices and the identification of potential system improvements. The Union has also recently introduced a free-to-join student-led Student Parent Network. It is hoped that feedback and comments provided by this group can influence decisions at University-level with regards to the needs of student parents.

PARKING ON CAMPUS 1 AND 2

Both of these motions related to inflexibility of the University's parking permit scheme. This was raised with the Estates and Transport departments, and a review of the RGU car parking strategy is currently underway. However, some 'quick win' solutions were identified, and were rolled out ahead of the start of semester one 2022/23. This included the introduction of a parking payment mobile app, alongside the introduction of a daily parking rate, which could be used in a 'pay as you go' manner instead of the traditional monthly/semester payment, although this is still available as an option.



TRUSTEE BOARD UPDATE

TRUSTEE BOARD UPDATE

ABOUT THE TRUSTEE BOARD

RGU Students' Union is governed by a Trustee Board, made up of both student and external trustees. Essentially, this Board exists to ensure the Union operates in a responsible manner and to provide support and guidance to the Executive and staff teams. The external trustees all have experience and skills in focused areas, such as finance, management, marketing, and fundraising, which helps to ensure that any major decisions are always made with the Union's financial, legal and strategic priorities in mind.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ian Campbell (2020 - pres) - *Chair*
David Strachan (2020 - pres)
Jo Royle (2019 - pres)
Damilola Adesanya (2021 - 2022)
Oluwafunmilola Akinoso (2022 - pres)
Laila Obiagwu (2021 - 2022)
Suzanna Bamigbola (2022 - pres)
Jordan Moore (2020 - 2022)
Joel Adebajo (2022 - pres)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Gregor Mailer (2020 - pres)

FINANCE OFFICER

Graeme Clark (2018 - pres)

HEAD OF SPORT

Hannah Leslie (2017 - pres)

TRUSTEE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

SABBATICAL TRUSTEES

President (Education and Welfare)

Damilola Adesanya (2021 - 2022)

Oluwafunmilola Akinoso (2022 - pres)

President (Communications and Democracy)

Laila Obiagwu (2021 - 2022)

Suzanna Bamigbola (2022 - pres)

President (Sport and Physical Activity)

Jordan Moore (2020 - 2022)

Joel Adebajo (2022 - pres) - *Vice Chair*

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Calvin Park (2021 - pres)

Opeyemi Adediji (2021 - pres)

Confidence Amuda (2021 - 2022)

Chioma Onoshakpor (2020 - 2022)

Sophie Forster (2020 - 2021)

Adrianna Hoffmann (2020 - 2022)

EXTERNAL TRUSTEES

David Strachan (2019 - pres) - *Chair from Jul '20*

Ian Campbell (2020 - pres)

Caroline Daniel (2020 - pres)

Jo Hall (2022 - pres)

Nazan Ünlütürk (2020 - 2021)

UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES

Jo Royle (2019 - pres)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Gregor Mailer (2020 - pres)

TRUSTEE BOARD UPDATE



KEY UPDATES, DECISIONS & ACTIONS

Changes to Trustee Board membership

The most significant membership changes at Trustee Board level saw Student Trustees Chioma Onoshakpor, Sophie Foster, Adrianna Hoffmann and Confidence Amuda move on due to graduations and/or the natural conclusion of their term in office. The Union will soon begin recruitment for three new Student Trustees to join the Board.

Management and review of financial situation

The Trustee Board manages the finances of the Union on a quarterly basis and approves its budget annually. The Board also considers how the Union manages its reserves and how it undertakes its statutory audit. A new auditor was appointed in 2022, with Hall Morrice now tasked with carrying out the Union's annual financial audit process. A financial summary is included in this booklet and will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Regular review of risk and related procedures

Every quarter the Trustee Board reviews perceived risks to the Union, and ensures correct procedures are in place to protect the charity, its staff, and the students it represents. The most significant risk has been identified as an inherited and on-going pension liability obligation.

Compliance with Education Act

Representatives from the Trustee Board met with University senior management, including the Principal, at an annual meeting to provide an update on the work of the Union, and to provide assurances that the Union complies with law as written in our Code of Practice and the Education Act (1994)

Support with significant projects and initiatives

The Board meet quarterly to review Union operations and to provide support with regards to major projects or initiatives including; ongoing social space development projects, which has recently received an investment from the Union's reserves; guidance and assistance with identifying and maximising external funding sources; long-term strategic direction; plus regular reviews of the Union's governance documentation and internal policies and procedures. Members of the Board have also assisted with significant projects such as a recent review of the Union's constitution and governance documentation.

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

INTRODUCTION

In line with the Union's obligations under the Education Act 1994 and Robert Gordon University Code of Practice, a review of the charity's Constitution is to take place at least every five years. This process was carried out during academic year 2022/23 and contained input from Union management, Student Presidents, Trustee Board and external legal advisors Ledingham Chalmers ('LC').

RECOMMENDATIONS

No material issues were identified, the document is adjudged to provide a fair summary of the charity's objectives and provides guidance regarding governance structures. However, a small number of recommendations have been presented below to remove ambiguity in areas and follow best practice standards from across the sector.

CLAUSE	NOTE	AMENDMENT	SUBSEQUENT IMPACT ON REGULATIONS, IF ANY
2.1 Aims and objectives and 17.2 Dissolution	LC Recommendation: "Clause 17.2 refers to 'charitable purposes', whereas clause 2.1 refers to 'objects'. If this can be made consistent that would be helpful."	Replace the words 'charitable purposes' in clause 17.2 with 'objects' so it reads: "...for one or more of the Association's objects as set out in clause 2.1 of this Constitution..."	n/a
2.2.4 Aims and objectives	The phrasing of this clause is quite clumsy.	Amend the clause so it reads: " promote inclusion and encourage active participation in the work and activities of the Association"	n/a

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS



CLAUSE	NOTE	AMENDMENT	SUBSEQUENT IMPACT ON REGULATIONS, IF ANY
8.1 Referendum	<p>LC recommendation:</p> <p>“We would consider changing the wording from ‘shall’ to ‘may’. This might be seen to give the Association more flexibility to address future demands for referendums.</p>	<p>Replace the word ‘shall’ with the word ‘may’ so it reads:</p> <p>“The Association may, following approval by the Executive Committee, hold Referendums on matters relating to the policy of the Association and to propose amendments to the Constitution. In order to be valid not less than 1,300 Ordinary Members must have voted and a majority of the votes cast must have indicated a preference on any one question.”</p>	n/a
8.1 Referendum	<p>LC recommendation:</p> <p>“A further adjustment was changing the quorum of votes into a percentage rather than a fixed ‘1300’. The reason for the latter is probably no longer relevant.”</p> <p>It is also noted that some of the Students’ Unions consulted contain this quorum figure within their Regulation documents, not within their Constitution, which provides greater flexibility with regards to reviewing and amending at timely intervals.</p>	Information relating to quorum and voting thresholds will be moved to the Referenda Regulations document.	The Referenda Regulations document will be updated to include information relating to quorum and voting thresholds.



CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

CLAUSE	NOTE	AMENDMENT	SUBSEQUENT IMPACT ON REGULATIONS, IF ANY
14 Regulations	LC recommendation: “It appears you intend for ‘maintain... Regulations’ to mean ‘comply with... Regulations’. That clarification might be helpful.	Add the words ‘comply with’ to clause 14 so it reads: “The Association shall maintain and comply with at all times the Regulations in the proceeding clauses of this constitution.”	n/a

APPROVALS

These recommendations and subsequent amendments were approved by the Union’s Trustee Board on 9th February 2023 ahead of presentation at AGM.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please direct any questions regarding this process to Suzanna Bamigbola, President (Communication & Democracy) by emailing prescd@rguunion.co.uk

REVISED CONSTITUTION



rgu:union



ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

CONSTITUTION

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC016639

Revised 2022/23



REVISED CONSTITUTION

rgu:union

Robert Gordon University Student Association Constitution

Registered Charity Number: SC016639

1. NAME

- 1.1 The Association shall be called “The Robert Gordon University Student Association” (the “Association”) also known as “RGU Union” or “RGU Students’ Union” for promotional and marketing purposes.
- 1.2 The Association shall:
 - 1.2.1 be an unincorporated association of members;
 - 1.2.2 have recognised charitable status;
 - 1.2.3 insofar as the Association sells and supplies excisable liquor obtain a premises licence in respect of the premises occupied by the Association from time to time in terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 in accordance with the terms of that premises licence and that Act;
 - 1.2.4 be a non-profit making organisation and any financial surpluses shall be reinvested in the Association; and
 - 1.2.5 adhere to the requirements of the Education Act 1994 (as amended) and to the associated university Code of Practice.
- 1.3 There shall be Regulations to the Constitution which shall set out further provisions on certain matters.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objects of the Association are to:
 - 2.1.1 represent and promote the general interests of students of the University;
 - 2.1.2 provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation so that their conditions of life may be improved;
 - 2.1.3 advance the arts, culture, education, science, heritage and sport by providing amenities and supporting activities for students;
 - 2.1.4 prevent and relieve poverty and advance health by providing advice and welfare services for students and potential students.
- 2.2 The Association recognises that the following activities are key to achieving its objects:
 - 2.2.1 representing students in their needs and aspirations;
 - 2.2.2 supporting students throughout their life at University;
 - 2.2.3 advising, informing and listening to students;

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- 2.2.4 ~~effecting-promote~~ inclusion ~~by promoting and encourage active~~ participation in the work and activities of the Association;
 - 2.2.5 ensuring quality social and recreational facilities and services focused on enhancing the 'student journey' are provided to its membership;
 - 2.2.6 supporting student development, sports, societies and other co-curricular activities;
 - 2.2.7 promote the awareness of environmental sustainability among our members;
 - 2.2.8 promote, educate and celebrate equality and diversity wherever it can throughout the Association's activities.
- 2.3 The Association shall have and shall publish an Equal Opportunities policy which shall cover all of the association's activities concerning equality.

3. POWERS

- 3.1 The Association shall, in pursuit of its objectives (but not for any other purposes), and to ensure efficient management, be permitted to:
- 3.1.1 buy, sell, lease or hire goods or services of any description;
 - 3.1.2 invest the funds of the Association where appropriate;
 - 3.1.3 elect, and where necessary censure and/or dismiss, the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Association (the "Presidents" and the "Vice Presidents");
 - 3.1.4 exercise discipline in relation to members of the Association;
 - 3.1.5 create and bestow upon its members awards as it sees fit;
 - 3.1.6 employ such staff as are necessary and to provide for their remuneration;
 - 3.1.7 subscribe or contribute to any charitable or benevolent concern of a private or public character;
 - 3.1.8 meet the expenses of the Association;
 - 3.1.9 create standing forums and other such ad-hoc groups as from time to time the Association sees fit;
 - 3.1.10 enter into, vary, carry out and cancel contracts, agreements and undertakings;
 - 3.1.11 become a member of any corporate or unincorporated body which has objects similar to those of the Association and to meet the appropriate subscriptions and charges relating to such memberships;
 - 3.1.12 pay out of the funds of the Association the cost of any premium in respect of any indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the Trustees (or any of them) which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Association provided that no such insurance shall extend to:

- 3.1.12.1 any claim arising from any liability incurred by the Trustees to pay a fine imposed in criminal proceedings or a sum payable to a regulatory authority by way of a penalty in respect of non-compliance with any requirement of a regulatory nature (however arising);
- 3.1.12.2 any liability incurred by the Trustees in defending any criminal proceedings in which the Trustees are convicted of an offence arising out of any fraud or dishonesty, or wilful or reckless misconduct; or
- 3.1.12.3 any liability incurred by the Trustees to the Association that arises out of any conduct which the Trustees knew (or must reasonably be assumed to have known) was not in the interests of the Association or in the case of which they did not care whether it was in the best interests of the Association or not; and

3.1.13 do all such other things as may appear to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Association's objects or any of them.

3.2 In exercising any of the powers listed at clause 3.1, the relevant Union regulations, (the "Regulations") as set down and amended under clauses 14 and 15 from time to time shall at all times be adhered to.

3.3 The Association may exercise the following additional powers but only with the prior consent of the University's Board of Governors:

- 3.3.1 the purchase, sale, lease, holding or disposal of any heritable property;
- 3.3.2 the purchase, sale, lease, holding or disposal of stocks and shares or the acquisition, formation, undertaking, liquidation or winding up of an interest in any company, society business or partnership;
- 3.3.3 the borrowing, advance or lending of any monies or the taking or giving of any security; and
- 3.3.4 the entry into a significant investment or creation of a partnership or other similar arrangement with any other entity.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 There shall be six classes of members of the Association as follows:

- 4.1.1 Ordinary Membership (“Ordinary Members”);
- 4.1.2 Associate Membership (“Associate Members”);
- 4.1.3 Life Membership (“Life Members”);
- 4.1.4 Honorary Membership (“Honorary Members”);
- 4.1.5 Reciprocal Membership; and
- 4.1.6 Temporary Membership.

4.2 The Association shall at all times have membership regulations that will specify the nature of the classes of membership.

5. TRUSTEE BOARD

5.1 The Trustees of the Association shall be as follows:

- 5.1.1 Sabbatical Officers
- 5.1.2 Four External Trustees
- 5.1.3 Five Ordinary Members
- 5.1.4 One University Trustee

5.2 The Association shall at all times have Trustee Board Regulations that will specify the powers, conduct and functioning of the Board.

6. MAJOR OFFICER BEARERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

6.1 The major office bearers shall be the ‘Sabbatical Officers’. The number (to a maximum of five) and composition of the major office bearers shall be agreed by the Trustee Board.

6.2 The Sabbatical Officers shall collectively constitute the Sabbatical Executive Committee.

6.3 The Sabbatical Officers shall be elected by a secret ballot in which all Ordinary Members are entitled to vote.

6.4 No Ordinary Member shall hold Sabbatical Office for more than two years in total.



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6.5 The Association shall establish a number of Vice Presidents who shall assist the Sabbatical Officers in the discharge of their duties. Collectively the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Association shall constitute the Executive Committee.

6.6 The Association shall at all times have elected officers regulations which shall specify the remits of the Presidents and title and remits of the Vice Presidents.

7. GENERAL MEETINGS

7.1 The general meetings (the “General Meeting”) of the Association shall be the primary policy-making forum of the Association.

7.2 There shall be one annual general meeting of the members of the Association each academic year (the “Annual General Meeting”) to be held at a place, date and time to be fixed by the, Sabbatical Executive Committee but which must be held during the teaching weeks of the first or second semester of the academic session.

7.3 Any properly constituted and quorate General Meeting of the Association shall have powers to pass policy for the whole of the Association and make amendments to this constitution, subject to the approval of the Trustee Board.

7.4 The Annual General Meeting and Referenda Regulations shall specify the proper conduct of General Meetings.

8. REFERENDUM

8.1 The Association ~~shall~~may, following approval by the Executive Committee, hold Referendums on matters relating to the policy of the Association and to propose amendments to the Constitution. In order to be valid not less than 1,300 Ordinary Members must have voted and a majority of the votes cast must have indicated a preference on any one question.

8.2 The Annual General Meeting and Referenda Regulations shall specify the proper conduct of Referendums.

Commented [A1]: Information relating to quorum and voting thresholds will be moved to the Referenda Regulations document to provide greater flexibility with regards to reviewing and amending at timely intervals.

9. STANDING FORUMS

- 9.1 The Association shall convene Standing Forums which are responsible for the main areas of the Association's activities, including Sport and Societies.
- 9.2 At a minimum, the Association shall at all times maintain the following standing forums:
- 9.2.1 the Sabbatical Executive Committee;
 - 9.2.2 the Executive Committee.
- 9.3 The Association shall at all times have Standing Forum Regulations which shall specify the establishment procedure, composition and remit of the forums.

10. FINANCE

- 10.1 The Association shall at all times have Financial Regulations that will specify the financial governance of the Association.

11. ELECTIONS

- 11.1 The Association shall at all times have Elections Regulations that shall specify the proper conduct of Union elections.

12. DISCIPLINE

- 12.1 The Association shall at all times have Discipline Regulations that shall specify how the Association shall exercise discipline in relation to Members.

13. COMPLAINTS

- 13.1 The Association shall at all times have a Complaints Regulations which shall regulate the means by which complaints are addressed to and by the Association.



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14. REGULATIONS

- 14.1 The Association shall maintain and comply with at all times the Regulations in the proceeding clauses of this constitution.
- 14.2 From time to time the Board shall set down and approve such Regulations as it sees fit on various matters in order to better regulate the running of the Association.

15. AMENDMENT AND REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS

- 15.1 The constitution may be amended by either:
- 15.1.1 a majority of the votes cast at any duly constituted General Meeting of the Association or;
 - 15.1.2 a majority of the votes cast in any valid referendum.
- 15.2 Any amendment made to the constitution by either a General Meeting or Referendum shall only take effect once it has been approved by a majority of the Board and the University's Board of Governors.
- 15.3 The provisions of the constitution shall be subject to review by the Board and the University's Board of Governors at intervals of not more than five years.
- 15.4 The Regulations of the Association shall be amended by any quorate meeting of the Board by a simple majority. Any Standing Forum or a General Meeting shall have the right to propose, by a majority of the votes cast, changes to these Regulations.
- 15.5 The Regulations of the Association shall be notified to the University's Board of Governors at least three weeks prior to taking effect. Any amendments to Regulations concerning matters pertaining to the Education Act 1994 (as amended) or the University's associated Code of Practice shall require the consent of the University's Board of Governors before taking effect.
- 15.6 No amendment of the Constitution or Regulations shall be made which would impede or interfere with the effective running of the Association as a charity.

16. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

- 16.1 In the event of any dispute as to the interpretation of this Constitution or any of the associated Regulations, the Sabbatical Executive Committee shall in the first instance determine the appropriate interpretation, unless the dispute concerns the Sabbatical Executive Committee's role and standing within the Association. In the event of a challenge to this ruling the matter shall be referred to a General Meeting.
- 16.2 In the event of any dispute as to the Sabbatical Executive Committee's role and standing within the Association, the matter shall be referred to the Board for resolution.

17. DISSOLUTION

- 17.1 The Association may be dissolved by a decision of the Board at a Trustee Meeting called for this purpose. The General Meeting may also pass a motion by a majority of the votes cast, at a General Meeting called for this purpose, recommending to the Board the dissolution of the Association, whereupon a decision would be taken at a Trustee Meeting called for this purpose. In both cases prior intimation of these meetings should be given to the university's Board of Governors and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).
- 17.2 In the event of dissolution, the Board shall distribute or otherwise apply the Association's assets for one or more of the Association's ~~charitable purposes~~ objects as set out in clause 2.1 of this Constitution, to an institution or institutions having charitable purposes similar to those of this Union and which prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property amongst its or their members to an extent at least as great as this constitution imposes upon the Association. The assets shall, under no circumstances, be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Association.
- 17.3 The Members, at a General Meeting may authorise the Board to transfer the assets and liabilities of the Association to a limited liability entity established for exclusively charitable purposes with the same or similar objects, and to dissolve the Association at any time following the transfer if it is considered appropriate to do so.

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 July 2022

	Note	2022 Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Designated Funds £	2022 Total Funds £	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Designated Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	2	508,000	-	508,000	493,000	-	493,000
Income from fundraising activities	2	7,184	-	7,184	5,678	-	5,678
Other trading activities	2	207,383	-	207,383	61,091	18,000	79,091
Total	2	722,567	-	722,567	559,769	18,000	577,769
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	3	(607,884)	(2,134)	(610,018)	(421,759)	(2,134)	(423,893)
Raising funds	3	(104,147)	-	(104,147)	(70,474)	-	(70,474)
Total	3	(712,031)	(2,134)	(714,165)	(492,233)	(2,134)	(494,367)
Net income before transfers		10,536	(2,134)	8,402	67,536	15,866	83,402
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		10,536	(2,134)	8,402	67,536	15,866	83,402
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total (deficit)/surplus brought forward	9	(255,019)	20,882	(234,137)	(322,555)	5,016	(317,539)
Total (deficit)/surplus carried forward	9	(244,483)	18,748	(225,735)	(255,019)	20,882	(234,137)

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

Expenditure on charitable activities of £610,131 includes a credit of £50,555 (2021: credit of £39,134) for provision of pension deficit obligations. Further details are included in note 10 to the financial statements.

All activities relate to continuing operations.

Report received from Hall Morrice, independent auditors, to the Trustees of Robert Gordon University Student Association:

We have audited the financial statements of Robert Gordon University Student Association (the 'charity') for the period ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

FINANCE UPDATE



Balance Sheet at 31 July 2022

	Notes	Year ended 31 July 2022 £	Year ended 31 July 2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6	24,346	31,039
Current assets			
Stock		-	6
Debtors	7	41,218	26,258
Cash held on behalf of clubs and societies		59,400	35,523
Cash at bank and in hand		246,274	311,241
Total current assets		346,892	373,028
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	8	(125,482)	(116,158)
Net current assets		221,410	256,870
Total assets less current liabilities		245,756	287,909
Provisions: pension liability	10	(471,491)	(522,046)
Total net liabilities		(225,735)	(234,137)
The deficit of the charity Unrestricted funds	9		
General funds		227,008	267,027
Pension reserve		(471,491)	(522,046)
		(244,483)	(255,019)
Designated funds		18,748	20,882
		(225,735)	(234,137)
Total charity deficit		(225,735)	(234,137)



AFFILIATIONS & DONATIONS

CHARITY DONATIONS

British Heart Foundation
Disaster Emergency Committee(Ukrainian Humanitarian Appeal)
Islamic Relief UK Appeals
Scottish Association for Mental Health(SAMH)

FUNDRAISING TOTAL
£2046

UNION AFFILIATIONS

National Union of Students	- £12,325
Nightline Association	- £25
Duke of Edinburgh's Award	- £1,368

SPORTING AFFILIATIONS

Badminton Scotland	- £50
Basketball Scotland	- £75
British Universities & Colleges Sport	- £5,548
Rifle	- £210
Scottish Rowing	- £460
Scottish Student Sport	- £7,850
Scottish Womens' Football	- £38
Volleyball Scotland	- £25



MOTIONS

MOTION 1

**PROPOSAL FOR SOLO AND DUAL
WORK POD STATIONS**

MOTION 2

**SPACES FOR MENTAL HEALTH,
RELAXATION AND WELLNESS**

MOTION 3

MULTI FAITH FACILITIES

MOTION 4

**SUPPORT THE 'DIVEST FROM FOSSIL
FUELS' CAMPAIGN**

MOTION 5

**INCREASE RGU ACCOMMODATION
PROVISION FOR FAMILIES**

MOTION 6

**AFFORDABLE BUS TRAVEL FOR
STUDENTS OVER 21**

MOTION 7

**INSUFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF
STUDENT PARKING PERMITS**

I WANT TO CHANGE PART OF A MOTION

If you would like to suggest a change to part of a motion, then you can do this by submitting an amendment.

Amendments will be invited during the motion discussion and will follow the process outlined on the next page.



HOW DO WE DISCUSS AND VOTE ON MOTIONS?

There will be an open discussion for each motion.

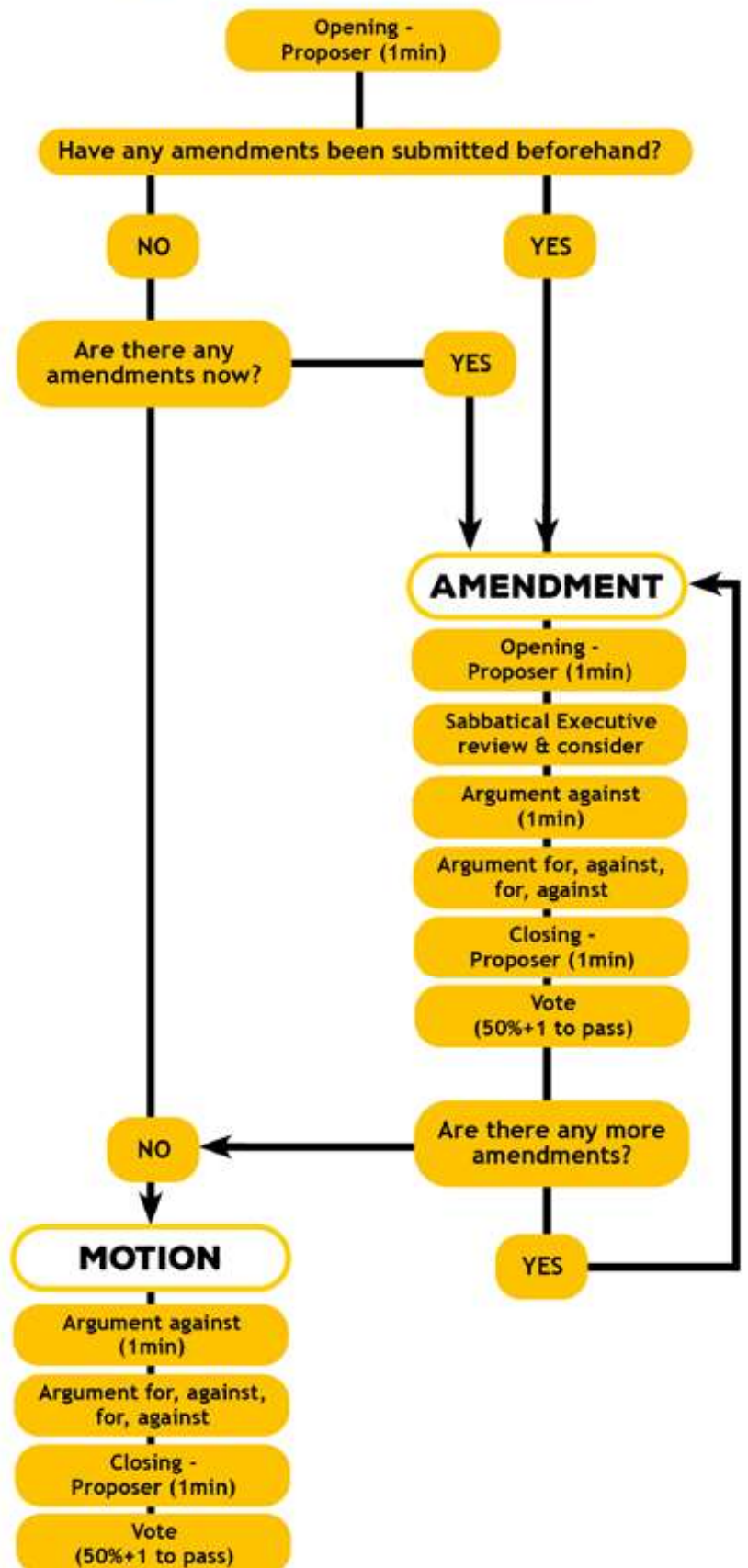
Motions will be called one by one and the proposer will have an opportunity to speak to the audience for one minute, explaining why they think students should support their motion. Students are then invited to argue against the motion, and there may be a small debate.

It is also possible that students may want to change small parts of a motion, these are called amendments (find out more on the next page). Each proposed amendment will get a separate debate and a separate vote.

After all amendments have been voted on, and there have been arguments for and against the motion, the proposer will have the chance to deliver a closing speech before it is put to a vote.

If it passes, then the motion is endorsed by the AGM and becomes RGU:Union policy!

MOTION PROCESS





AMENDMENT INFORMATION

WHAT IS AN AMENDMENT?

Amendments are suggested changes to a motion. Once motions are published online, you have the chance to read over them and decide whether you agree or not. If there is a part of the motion that you would like to change, you can submit an amendment.

Any amendment submitted **must**...

- 1) be viable
- 2) be reasonable
- 3) not amend the motion in such a way that it impacts on the motion's core aim

HOW DO I SUBMIT AN AMENDMENT?

Amendments can be submitted before the AGM through the Union's website (www.rguunion.co.uk/agm), or you can wait and submit your amendment during the AGM, at the start of the motion discussion.

The meeting chair will invite amendments before discussion of each motion.

HOW DO I WRITE AN AMENDMENT?

Simply outline which motion you are discussing, highlight the specific change you would like to make, and the rational for the change.

Changes could be to add, remove, change, or reword a point in the motion.

EXAMPLE AMENDMENT

MOTION

"RGU:Union should look to further support students in finding safe accommodation"

AMENDMENT

Housing is expensive, the Union should also help students in finding affordable accommodation. Add "affordable" to the motion, making it "RGU:Union should look to further support students in finding safe and affordable accommodation"



MOTION 1

PROPOSAL FOR SOLO AND DUAL WORK POD STATIONS

Motion Proposer: Erinne Bird MacKellar
Motion Seconder: Cassandra Egan

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The effects of COVID-19 have meant an increase in hybrid-style working staff and students and full-time remote staff and students; this has led to the increase of zoom and team calls in the university. Overall, the university has seen an increase in zoom and team calls for meetings and lectures that require students and staff to come together, for example, recent Course Representative training sessions and meetings - these are also held on teams.

Some on-campus students work with staff, and work with those working hybrid or entirely online, meaning they must find quiet places on campus to hold online calls/meetings where they can have a fully engaged conversation. This issue is particularly problematic for students carrying out a thesis or any primary data collection who may need to discuss elements with their supervisor, host interviews or focus groups, and require their full attention.

This means that some students must adapt to highly noise-polluted areas in the university, which sometimes means having to book out group pods or find obscure quiet places on campus where they can have these online calls/appointments. Sometimes this cannot be carried out, and there is an interference of loud background noises, which can significantly impact the quality of online calls/meetings.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

It is a problem as there needs to be more on-campus working areas dedicated for students to use to effectively talk and engage in their online meetings/lectures/calls without noise disruptions.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

The solution is to provide solo and dual working pods on campus where students can focus and freely engage with the content of their online meeting/call and know that they are not disrupting neighbouring students or disrupting the respondent of the online call.

The university is adapting to post-covid working conditions. RGU must make adjustments for the benefit of students and staff where there are comfortable and appropriate working conditions to hold online meetings and calls on campus.



MOTION 2

SPACES FOR MENTAL HEALTH, RELAXATION AND WELLNESS

Motion Proposers: Tamsyn Lampkin, Oluwafunmilola Akinoso

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- Students often have large gaps between classes where they want to relax and refresh.
- Students do not spend much time on campus after class time or in between classes.
- Staff also have similar issues and would benefit from access to similar spaces, possibly shared.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Often times class and coursework can feel overwhelming, if there was a room or space on campus where students could spend 10mins - 2hrs of their time this will help with their mental health.

For example, similar space was created at The Hilton TECA for their staff to use during breaks or after work. They found great results in moral and dedication to work. The room is dark blue/green, mostly empty but has a vast amount of soft furnishings, soft lighting and calming music.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Students, and potentially staff, should have access to a dedicated relaxation and wellness space on campus, recommended within the Union, where they can rest and recuperate.



MOTION 3

MULTI FAITH FACILITIES

Motion Proposer: Suzanna Bamigbola
Motion Seconder: Joel Adebajo

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The current location for the University's multi-faith facility on campus at Kaim Cottage is not visible to students and is not accessible to students with disabilities or mobility issues.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

The multi faith facility is in a building not easily recognised or easily reached by the students. The facility is not visible.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

The Union should work with the University to ensure multi-faith facilities are created in all buildings across the campus. This should be a priority development with quick progress displayed.



MOTION 4

SUPPORT THE 'DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS' CAMPAIGN

Motion Proposer: Audrey Opara
Motion Secunder: Maja Huebers

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Go Green is starting a campaign for RGU to divest from investments in fossil fuel companies.

Issue: Environmental problem

With the investment money RGU enables further usage of fossil fuels which are proven to play a big role in climate change and therefore the current climate crisis we are living in.

Issue: Time concern

The issue is that as a student we can only do so much in our 1 or 4 years here. We have limited time to engage in out-of-uni activities and after our 4 years here we have to leave this behind.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

RGU actively negatively influences the climate crisis by investing in fossil fuel industries.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Adopt the Fossil Free campaign and demand that RGU:

1. Exclude the fossil fuel industry from their investment portfolio;
2. Introduce a publicly accessible ethical investment policy excluding the fossil fuel industry;
3. Commit to and fully divest from all fossil fuels within 3 years.

Mandate a Full-Time Paid Students' Union President Role to

- A. Support students to lead, and put resources towards, a high-profile divestment campaign on campus, including - where relevant - the dissemination of information about the university's investment practises.
- B. Request quarterly updates of the university's investment portfolio.
- C. Lobby for and secure student representation on all university investment-related committees.
- D. Lobby the university to end all future investments in fossil fuel companies and to divest from fossil fuel industry companies immediately.



MOTION 5

INCREASE RGU ACCOMMODATION PROVISION FOR FAMILIES

Motion Proposer: Samson Akinrinola
Motion Secoder: Patricia Nkem Innocent

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

International students are being exploited by hotels and private property owners due to the lack of family-friendly student accommodation in the city.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

International students arriving in Aberdeen for the first time do not know their way around and the have to rely on hotels and private property owners for accommodation on arrival. The cost of staying in hotels is expensive, and some students have found themselves in unsuitable situations.

Based on fact, many international students have found themselves in an unpleasant situation due to the desperation of finding a roof over their head in an unknown city.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Family friendly accommodation should be available for student parents. RGU Union should work with the University to ensure students with families have access to suitable and affordable student accommodation.



MOTION 6

AFFORDABLE BUS TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS OVER 21

Motion Proposer: Samson Akinrinola
Motion Secoder: Patricia Nkem Innocent

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

It is possible for under 21's to access free bus travel, but many students are not within this age bracket and do not qualify for the discount. A one-way ticket can cost £2.85 and an all-day ticket costs £3.95. These prices are excessive.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Students who are over 21 are struggling to keep up with daily bus ticket costs alongside other bills and daily expenses.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

The Union should campaign for cheaper bus tickets for students of all ages.



MOTION 7

INSUFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF STUDENT PARKING PERMITS

Motion Proposer: Jonny Marshall
Motion Secoder: Harry Whitson

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Insufficient allocation of student parking permits.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Parking is a problem because some students live miles away from the university and have no option but to drive to campus. If they have not been issued with a parking permit, they will have to either: use available parking spaces within the local community potentially causing disruption to local businesses and residents; park miles away from the campus and walk; or they must make inconvenient and impractical journeys via public transport. This risks lateness and impacts the ability to attend classes.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

An increase in the number of parking permits released to students with the convenience of been able to apply for one at any time.



**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
ABOUT TODAY'S MOTIONS,
THE AGM OR UNION
ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL,
PLEASE CONTACT**

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