

	SAUWS Standing Policy
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Document History

Version	Date	Changes	Reason	Author
1	15/6/2016	-	Document creation	CL
2	07/06/17	Added policy passed 2016-17. Removed lapsed policy	Update	CL

Document Outline

This document contains the standing policy of the Students' Association of the University of the West of Scotland (SAUWS). Policy which has passed remains in effect for five years, unless it is overwritten by a new policy.

Policy Lapse

Policy which has been in effect for five academic years, will be scheduled for lapsing at the last Student Voice meeting. Members of the Student Voice may choose to keep or to lapse any policy brought forward for lapsing. Keeping a policy will result in it continuing to be policy for an additional five years.

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Policy Passed in Academic Year 2012-13

Date Passed:	18.10.12
Title:	Votes at 16
Author:	Garry Quigley, President of the Students' Association
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 16/17

SAUWS notes:

1. That currently 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are denied the vote in public elections in the
2. UK.
3. That the campaign to lower the voting age is supported by thousands of young people
4. across the UK and that the Votes at 16 Coalition consists of a wide range of youth and democracy organisations.

SAUWS believes;

1. 16 and 17 year olds are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system as any other citizen;
2. Lowering the voting age to 16, combined with strong citizenship education, would empower young people to better engage in society and influence decisions that will define their future;
3. People who can consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married or enter a civil partnership and join the armed forces should also have the right to vote.

SAUWS resolves;

1. To join the Votes at 16 Coalition;
2. To write to the Leader of the Council, local MPs, local MSP's and the local media to inform them of this decision and ask them to support the campaign;
3. To promote this policy through its communications;
4. To run activities to raise awareness of and support for Votes at 16 in the local area.

Date Passed:	20.11.12
Title:	Poppyscotland Appeal
Author:	Stewart Brown, Ordinary Member
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 16/17

Council Notes:

1. For nearly 90 years Poppyscotland has been providing life-changing support for Scotland's ex-Servicemen and women.
2. Servicemen and women are highly skilled professionals who, for a multitude of reasons often outwith their control, can find themselves in need of help when they leave the Armed Forces. This may come as a result of injury on the front line or as they adjust to civilian life after their military career is over.
3. Compared to their English and Welsh counterparts, veterans living in Scotland are: 10% more likely to become homeless; 8% more likely to suffer from mental health problems; 5% more likely to have financial problems; 5% more likely to have a criminal record; 3% more likely to suffer from alcohol problems.
4. During session 2011-12, Students Council passed policy to allow the Armed Forces to recruit on our campuses and in our Unions.
5. That the SAUWS recently published its Strategic Plan for 2011-2016 which includes the mission of contributing to and engaging with our local community.

Council Believes:

1. That the SAUWS already currently fundraise for other charities including Children In Need, World Aids Day and Cancer awareness.
2. That by getting involved in the Poppyscotland appeal we will be raising the profile of the UWS and the SAUWS to the wider communities at each of our campuses.
3. That during this year's (2012) Poppy appeal there wasn't much visibility of our students and staff wearing poppies.

Council Resolves:

1. For the Board of Trustees to encourage the UWS and the SAUWS to allow Poppyscotland collection tins and box of poppies to be placed at the Cafes of each organisation's campuses.
2. To mandate the SAUWS to raise funds and awareness for the Poppyscotland Appeal each year on each of our campuses.

Date Passed:	13.12.12
Title:	Condemn the action of some at the NUS Demo 21.11.12
Author:	Jack Douglas, Ordinary
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 16/17

At the recent NUS Demonstration, down in London, a radical left wing of students protested strongly against NUS. Reasons for this consist of the timing and route of the demo and the amount of action NUS has taken, as well as the type of organisation NUS is. However the protest from some radical left students at the demo went to far. Hannah Paterson (The NUS UK Disabled Officer) writes an open letter, signed by NUS officials and student leaders all over Britain, detailing -

"During the Rally at #Demo2012 a small number of individuals decided to voice their objection to the route march by shouting over workers, trade unionists and a woman talking of experiences of having to work in the sex industry in order to afford university. Following this around 10 people chose to further display their upset by occupying/having a strop on the stage. In order to have this little foot stamping display of masculine dissatisfaction they made the decision to trample over a disabled student using a wheelchair, they also hit a 6 year old boy in the face, and several others were kicked, hit and hurt in order for them to have their 5 minutes of (figurative) willy waving on stage."

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/hannah-paterson/open-letter-demo2012/551739578174163>

SAUWS will condemn these actions of these individuals and SAUWS trustees, present at the demo, will sign this open letter.

Date Passed:	13.12.12
Title:	Auctions in aid of charity and SAUWS student groups
Author:	Alastair Adamson, Sports President
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 16/17

Council Notes –

1. That the auctioning of volunteers at events in aid of charity or to raise funds for good causes such as students groups are common across universities in Britain.
2. Such auctions (sometimes referred to as 'slave auctions') are done by all kinds of charities and organisations for good causes e.g. Children in Need, Comic Relief, Cancer Research and even the Whitehouse.

Council Believes –

1. Such events are done to raise money and awareness of good causes and are taken part in by volunteers wanting to raise money for charity or other good causes.
2. As a body that represents students from all groups of society, we should implement relative precautions during such events to make the event non-discriminatory and reinforce the good nature intended for these types of event.
3. That such events are a fun way for students to raise some money within their students union.

Council resolves –

1. Such events be referred to as 'Player or club (name of club) member auctions' when being advertised via any media used to promote the event by promoters and organisers.
2. The term 'slave auction' will not be used by any groups when promoting such events through SAUWS media channels (i.e. posters, facebook and newspapers etc.).
3. Charitable auctions of this nature are allowed to take place as part of student lead events or fundraisers.
4. All members taking part must be volunteers.
5. The length of time of purchase will be 2 hours maximum and the compare for the event will outline that the club members etc are not being bought for any sexual, discriminatory or demeaning acts.
6. Any person taking part reserves the right to refuse to participate at any point if they are not comfortable and will not be discriminated against if they take up this right, this will be made clear by the organisers.
7. When such events are planned, the groups planning such events must seek advice and confirm the above guidelines with a member of SAUWS welfare staff or a relevant sabbatical officer.

NB from Minutes: Members ask for it to be noted that both BME members in the room voted against this motion please be aware of this when moving forward.

Date Passed:	02.05.13
Title:	Right 2 Education Campaign
Author:	Jade McCarroll, Ordinary Member
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 16/17

SAUWS Notes:

1. The Right to Education is a human right enshrined in Article 26 of the UN declaration of human rights.
2. The current situation in Palestine is one of military occupation resulting in severe movement restrictions for students and staff due to hundreds of Israeli army checkpoints, the apartheid wall, illegal settlements, areas of land completely closed to Palestinians and a network of Israeli-only roads.
3. The Right 2 Education (R2E) campaign, organised by students at BirZeit University in occupied Palestine, seeks to document research and raise awareness about the issues facing Palestinian students, teachers and the academic institutions under Israeli militant occupation and build an international movement in support of their rights.
4. That many other student associations across the UK are affiliated to the R2E campaign, as well as being "twinned" with Universities in Palestine.
5. That the president-elect plans to attend Palestine and also BirZeit University in the summer of 2013.
6. That very few students understand or know about the apartheid system being implemented within Palestine.

SAUWS Believes:

1. All people should have the Right to Education and for that right to be meaningful education must be; Accessible, Available, Acceptable and Adaptable as articulated by the UN.
2. That education under military occupation as in the Palestinian case fails these conditions and that the Israeli military occupation due to the physical barriers listed above denies, impinges and infringes on the Palestinians' Right to Education.
3. The R2E campaign is a grassroots and student-led campaign with no resource-related preconditions on affiliation and there will be no detriment to SAUWS's resources or associated risks by this affiliation.
4. UWS rightfully should pride itself on being an internationally engaged university and SAUWS therefore has a key role in helping the university promote equality, diversity, human rights and global justice.
5. In a globalised world those who are privileged enough to have their Right to Education should support the Right to Education in other parts of world and raise awareness of the denial of this Right in solidarity with student-initiated campaigns such the R2E campaign in Occupied Palestine.

SAUWS Resolves:

1. To participate within the parameters of charitable status and financial constraints in the annual Right 2 Education week (November) by organising events, as well as providing information and details of other events happening, in conjunction with R2E week/campaign.
2. To incorporate the Right 2 Education campaign into existing SAUWS campaigns and listed on the website under "Campaigns" as "Palestinian Right 2 Education campaign" .

3. Work with any Students who wish to do so to re-publish articles and reports from Palestinian, Israeli and International human rights organisations that centre on or cover the issue of education on the SAUWS website.
4. To look into the possibility of implementing a "twinning" policy with the student association of BirZeit University in the near future.
5. To put up a small gallery and informative area about; the situation in Palestine and what the R2E campaign seeks to do, in order to inform students of the issue.

Policy Passed in Academic Year 2013-14

Date Passed:	24.10.13
Title:	Keep the song 'Blurred Lines' by Robin Thicke banned from our Unions.
Author:	Heather Armstrong, Women's STAR Group convener
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 17/18

Council Notes:

1. 'Blurred Lines' by Robin Thicke is second biggest selling song in the UK of 2013.¹ Consequently it is widely played in all forms of media, in shops, in bars and clubs.
2. SAUWS Board Members were approached by survivors of sexual abuse expressing how the lyrics of 'Blurred Lines' were similar to the words used by their attackers and that this was triggering to their experiences.
3. Reports of rape this year in Scotland are higher than that of robbery²
4. Sexual coercion is unlawful in Scotland and is classed as serious sexual assault.³
5. SAUWS has Safe Space Policy to protect all students on campus.

Council Believes:

1. The lyrics of the song 'Blurred Lines' reads as sexual coercion.
2. We currently live in a society that normalizes rape. Rape culture is evident in most mass media.
3. It should be a priority of a Student's Association to protect its students from situations within their Unions that can cause unnecessary harm.

Council Resolves:

1. To ban 'Blurred Lines' by Robin Thicke completely from SAUWS Paisley/Ayr/Hamilton Union.
2. To fight Rape Culture where ever it occurs on campus.

Date Passed:	21.11.13
Title:	Bookshops? What Bookshops?
Author:	Jack Douglas, Ordinary Member
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 17/18

Council Notes

1. A number of schools, including the Social Sciences department, have said the John Smith shop in Paisley will be shut down by November 29th.
2. The SAUWS President has confirmed this.
3. So far there is no certain alternative for the bookshop.
4. The John Smith shops sell dozens of core texts and other resources to students at UWS and promotes itself on being cheaper than amazon with most of its deals.
5. These shops also sell other learning resources and equipment that is essential for students at UWS.
6. Having shops on UWS campuses makes buying resources and equipment hassle free.
7. According to John Smith staff at UWS, the reason for closing down the shops is because the shop not making a large enough profit.
8. This also affects non Paisley campuses as students can request books to be delivered from this shop to their campus to buy.

Council Believes

1. This shop is a vital part of the student experience and losing it will damage it.
2. With this shop gone students may need to travel longer and it may cost more for them to get the exact resources they need.
3. With 18000 students as potential customers this shop is viable.
4. Getting the exact same John Smith shop to be put back in place might be impossible, but it is not impossible for achieving a reasonable alternative.
5. Examples of reasonable alternatives can consist of SAUWS adopting this line of business as it already has shops in Ayr and Hamilton Union and the original plans of Paisley Union had one to before it was cut - however SAUWS must have the significant funds to do this.
6. Another can be to lobby the University to replace John Smiths by bringing in another business to do so.
7. Or for the University to buy back the space (similar to what they did with catering a few years ago) and put in place their own shops that sell learning resources.

Council Resolves

1. To mandate the Student Officers to make this a priority concern.
2. To mandate the Student Officers to campaign to limit the damage of losing these shops by lobbying for a reasonable alternative.
3. To mandate the Student Officers to fully utilize students that is willing to contribute in this campaign.

Date Passed:	21.11.13
Title:	Defend the right of students officers to support strike action and Their jobs; Our education
Author:	Blane Abercrombie, SAUWS President / Jade McCarroll, Ordinary Member
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 17/18

NB: These motions were discussed together at the request of Council members present on the day

Council notes –

- 1) That on December 3rd 2013; UCU, Unite and Unison will again have a national day of strike and this time will be joined by EIS.
- 2) That a dispute over workers' pay has been on-going for a long period of time.
- 3) That Student Unions across the country will be supporting the strike action.
- 4) That National Union of Students (NUS) will also be supporting the strike action.
- 5) That the workers have been offered a 1% pay rise which is sub-inflationary and therefore is actually a cut, in real terms, of ~15%.
- 6) Both teaching and support staff have recently had their pension schemes changed to their detriment.
- 7) That the average salary of a Principal and Vice-Chancellor is almost £250,000 – with the University of the West of Scotland's (UWS) being paid £217,000.
- 8) The lowest paid staff member at UWS is just above £13,000, which is a pay ratio of 16.5-1, when compared to the salary of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

Council Believes –

- 1) That students should never feel pressured to cross a picket line, and neither should student representatives (Sabbatical officers).
- 2) That student representatives should be able to make the choice as to whether they cross the picket line.
- 3) Although industrial action is likely to affect students in the short term, in fighting for their terms and conditions on-campus unions are fighting for the long-term health of a set of professions of which students are the primary beneficiaries.
- 4) That a well-treated workforce will provide better learning and teaching for the students.

Council Resolves –

- 1) To allow individual student representatives to take the decision as to whether they support strike actions and thus support them if they decide that they will not cross the picket line.
- 2) To lobby the University to ensure that students aren't losing out on teaching and support services due to industrial action.

Their jobs; Our education

Council Notes -

- 1) That on December 3rd 2013; UCU, Unite and Unison will again have a national day of strike and this time will be joined by EIS.
- 2) That a dispute over workers' pay has been on-going for a long period of time.
- 3) That Student Unions across the country will be supporting the strike action.
- 4) That National Union of Students (NUS) will also be supporting the strike action.
- 5) That the workers have been offered a 1% pay rise which is sub-inflationary and therefore is actually a cut, in real terms, of ~15%.

- 6) That many of the staff striking on 3rd December will not be lecturing staff but they will be support staff and cleaners etc.7) Both teaching and support staff have recently had their pension schemes changed to their detriment.
- 8) That UWS has the highest number of staff of any Higher Education Institute (HEI) in Scotland that are paid below the living wage.
- 9) That the average salary of a Principal and Vice-Chancellor is almost £250,000 – with the University of the West of Scotland’s (UWS) being paid £217,000. Compared to the lowest paid staff member at UWS, who is paid just above £13,000, is a pay ratio of 16.5-1.

Council Believes -

- 1) That students' unions have a major part to play in fighting against the cuts to workers wages at our institutions and in wider society.
- 2) Student representatives should never feel pressured to cross a picket line and neither should students.
- 3) That students and thus students' unions should be standing side-by-side with the workers that make their education possible.
- 4) Although industrial action is likely to affect students in the short term, in fighting for their terms and conditions on-campus unions are fighting for the long-term health of a set of professions of which students are the primary beneficiaries.
- 5) That a well-treated workforce will provide better learning and teaching for the students.

Council Resolves -

- 1) For the Students' Association of the University of the West of Scotland (SAUWS) to publically support strike action.
- 2) For the President to write a blog for the SAUWS website stating this.
- 3) To lobby the University to use it's position within the sector to push for a better deal for staff.
- 4) To lobby the University to ensure that students aren't losing out on teaching and support services due to industrial action.

Date Passed:	21.11.13
Title:	21st Century Quorums
Author:	Jack Douglas, Ordinary Member
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 17/18

Council notes

1. That quorum is the number of people needed to attend a meeting for it to take place.
2. For years now quorum is made by the number of normal student council reps (Reps that are not a member of the board, what the constitution defines as elected members) at the first council meeting halved then plus one.
3. For example if 20 students came to the first meeting 11 would need to come to each one after or the meeting will not take place at all.
4. In the constitution it actually states it should be a third of students then plus one for quorum, however whatever method is used SAUWS struggles to carry out all of its Student Council meetings.
5. According to SAUWS figures, last year Ayr only had 33%, Hamilton had 66% and Paisley had 83% of its meetings.
6. Student Council is one of the main official ways for UWS students to have their views, thoughts and opinions heard, and for implementing policy and holding their sabbaticals to account in a public way.
7. Student Council therefore greatly empowers grassroots students at UWS.

Council Believes.

1. The rule on quorum is far too strict and adversely effects grassroots students at SAUWS.
2. The rule on quorums disadvantage smaller campuses more.
3. Student Council should be student driven not management driven and a new rule on how quorum is made can help achieve this.

Council Resolves.

1. That a new rule must be immediately implemented as soon as possible and then reviewed once again when the review of the constitution is in full swing.
2. Quorum will now be set by having more students there than board members.
3. For example if 4 board members are there, 5 students must be there for it to take place, this will keep Student Councils student driven.

Date Passed:	27.02.14
Title:	A union that allows bullying is not a safe space at all
Author:	Jack Douglas, Ordinary Trustee
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 17/18

Council Notes.

1. SAUWS is a safe space for not just for students but for staff as well.
2. SAUWS has strict measures on harassment and if someone was to break this it should result in some form of punishment.

Council Believes.

1. These rules apply for everyone – students, staff, visitors and even trustees.
2. That it is common sense to treat others in the same manner you expect them to treat you.
3. If these rules are being broken action deserves to be taken.
4. If you are in a position of power and you see harassment in your work place and choose to look the other way makes you just as bad as the bully.
5. No staff member should be afraid to come into work.

Council Resolves

1. That the board must take bullying seriously at SAUWS.
2. The board will conduct a review of harassment and bullying in the work place towards staff, people convicted of harassment or bullying should not be allowed to carry out this review.
3. If the results show that bullying/harassment has taken place the board should discipline that member in the appropriate way or/and asked to step down if they are an elected representative.
4. The board must take action when it sees harassment and bullying take place, whether this is through the disciplinary committee or/and censoring a board member.
5. That the members of the board should not give other board members special treatment and instead, if they have broken rules, they should be treated like anyone else who may have broken the rules.

Date Passed:	17.04.14
Title:	Zero Tolerance for Zero Hours
Author:	Will Little, Ordinary Member
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 17/18

Council Notes:

1. That over 900 staff at UWS are currently employed on zero-hours contracts.
2. UWS has recently agreed to evaluate the usage of zero-hours contracts within the university and decrease this number by two thirds.
3. 27,000 public sector workers in Scotland are employed on zero-hours contracts.
4. Zero-hours contracts have no set, regular working pattern and therefore hours may not be divided out fairly amongst staff.

Council believes:

1. That a large number of staff members are currently employed on these contracts within SAUWS.
2. That the usage of these contracts within SAUWS has resulted in working hours not being divided out fairly amongst all staff members in the same role.
3. That these contracts are exploitative and target the most vulnerable workers in society.
4. That these contracts target students. The biggest companies that use these contracts employ people who are students such as Sports Direct, McDonald's and Wetherspoons.
5. In some cases, there are clear violations of employment rights where there have been unconfirmed reports of employees not receiving sick pay, holiday pay or annual leave.
6. In this tough economic climate, people need to know what their wages are going to be at the end of the month. Zero-hours contracts make budgeting difficult because there is so much uncertainty as to what hours people will work and the wages they will receive for these hours.

Council resolves:

1. That SAUWS abolishes its use of these contracts and employ every staff member on a minimum set hour's contract per week.
2. That SAUWS employ every staff member in the same role on equal minimum hourly contracts per week.
3. That SAUWS pressures the university into fulfilling their promise to cut the usage of these contracts by two thirds.
4. That SAUWS condemns the wide use of zero-hours contracts in both the public and private sectors.

Policy Passed in Academic Year 2014-15

Date Passed:	30.10.14
Title:	Lets show we care – Care Leavers STAR Group
Author:	Chantelle Donnelly and Jack Douglas
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 18/19

Council Notes

1. Issues surrounding care leavers often go under represented in politics and Student Unions.
2. Even though there are great activists in the care leaver movement from SAUWS, care leavers and there issues go well under the radar at SAUWS.
3. Care leavers at UWS are an under represented group.
4. UWS has the Buttle Quality Mark.
5. STAR group means Students Taking Action and Representing.
6. STAR groups exist to represent underrepresented student groups at UWS.
7. Care leaver are less likely to graduate or be accepted at University.

Council Believes

1. Even though it can seem like UWS is better at providing services to care leavers than some other institutions much more needs to be done.
2. SAUWS can be doing much more for care leavers and they deserve to be better represented.

Council Resolves

1. To add "Care Leavers" to the list of STAR groups in the constitution, this means as well as an LGBT+, Womens, Black, Disabled, Post-Grad, Part-time, International, Mature, there will also be a Care Leavers group.
2. SAUWS will promote this group and encourage anyone who is classed as a care leaver to join.
3. SAUWS will help aid and facilitate this group but realise it is an autonomous group as well.
4. SAUWS should continue to explore better way to represent underrepresented groups.

Date Passed:	19.02.15
Title:	Pre- Referendum Motion – SAUWS Constitutional referendum
Author:	<i>Board of Trustees</i>
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 18/19

Council Notes

1. In early March a SAUWS Constitutional Referendum will take place asking if students wish to accept and adopt the new constitution.
2. However, even if the referendum comes out as a yes vote, council still has the power to reject the outcome and decide against the desire of the student body by refusing to ratify the changes.

Council Resolves

1. To actively encourage participation in the SAUWS Constitutional Referendum in the yes or no campaigns
2. Council will accept the outcome of the SAUWS Constitutional Referendum and ratify the decision.

Date Passed:	19.02.15
Title:	Post- Referendum Motion – Referendum result – ratification
Author:	<i>Board of Trustees</i>
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 18/19

Council Notes:

1. On March 9th to March 12th students at UWS were ask to vote either to agree or disagree to a new proposed constitution.
2. In total 453 students voted.
 - 85.4% voted for yes
 - 9.3% voted for no
 - 5.3% voted to abstain

Council resolves:

1. To adopt the new SAUWS constitution

Date Passed:	19.03.15
Title:	Free Period. Tax free.
Author:	Heather Armstrong, On behalf of Women's Group
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 18/19

Council Notes:

1. SAUWS and UWS charge for the sanitary products they sell in their bathrooms.
2. Sanitary products are taxed as 'non-essential, luxury item'.
3. People do not choose to have a menstrual cycle.

Council believes:

1. It is not right to tax people's bodies.
2. Sanitary products are not luxury items.

Council Resolves:

1. To SAUWS to provide sanitary products to students for free in our unions subject to the Board of Trustees approval.
2. For SAUWS to lobby the university to not profit from the sale of sanitary products.
3. Sign and share the online petition to change the tax classification of sanitary products from a 'non-essential, luxury item':
<https://www.change.org/p/george-osborne-stop-taxing-periods-period>

Policy Passed in Academic Year 2015-16

Date Passed:	30.10.15
Title:	Safe Space Policy
Author:	David Gracie, Chair SAUWS Disciplinary Committee
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 19/20

Council notes:

1. Any form of discriminatory abuse on the grounds of racial group, religion, sexual orientation, disability, class, ethnicity, nationality, age, gender, gender identity, or political affiliation is hurtful and upsetting to the person affected.
2. Discrimination has been known to decrease a person's self esteem, educational attainment and increase rates of self harm and suicide.
3. Many victims of discrimination do not report the incident due to fear of embarrassment or retaliation. They also feel that nothing can be gained from reporting the incident.
4. All NUS events are covered by a safe space policy that ensures the safety and wellbeing of staff and students attending these events.

Council believes:

1. All SAUWS premises should be a safe space for all its members, free from discrimination and prejudice.
2. No forms of discriminatory abuse should be tolerated.

Council resolves:

1. Any facilities and events run by SAUWS must be considered a "safe space" where guests, students and staff feel able to be themselves without fear of discrimination, harassment or victimisation.
2. Any guest, student or staff member who feel discriminated, harassed or victimised in any way, have the right to report it to the Disciplinary Officer on duty that will complete a report that will be considered by the Disciplinary Board for further action.
3. Any guest, student or staff member found to be the responsible for any form of discrimination, harassment or victimisation be asked to leave the premises immediately.
4. The President (or in their absence, the DPEW) encourage other SAUWS campuses to adopt a similar policy to ensure all UWS guests, students and staff members feel safe whilst using SAUWS facilities.

Date Passed:	30.10.15
Title:	Fossil Free Forever!
Author:	Kevin McKinley, On behalf of People and Planet Society
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 19/20

Voice Notes:

1. That On the 1st April 2015 the University of the West of Scotland had an endowment of £1,016,213 including investments in fossil fuel companies including BG Group, BHP Biliton, BP, Rio Tinto, Royal Dutch Shell, SSE, Wood Group, totalling £160,123.
2. On the 9th September 2015, the University of the West of Scotland had a total endowment of £0.
3. That BG Group, BHP Biliton, BP, Rio Tinto, Royal Dutch Shell, SSE, Wood Group are among the world's 200 largest fossil fuel companies, by proven carbon reserves, and that these reserves are well in excess of the amount of carbon that can be safely burned to have a chance of staying below 2C of global warming.
4. CarbonTracker's Unburnable Carbon 2013¹ report which highlights the overvaluation of fossil fuel reserves and the huge financial risks of investing in fossil fuels.
5. That People & Planet, in partnership with 350.org and others, has launched a Fossil Free UK campaign, calling on UK higher education institutions to divest from fossil fuels and sever their links with these companies.²
6. That 7 higher education institutions in the United Kingdom have already committed to divesting from fossil fuels for both moral and financial reasons.³

Voice Believes:

1. That the University of the West of Scotland is going through a temporary period of zero investment.
2. That we are running out of time to keep global warming below 2C above pre-industrial levels- the limit for ensuring a safe and stable future for the economy, the planet and all people on it, as recently outlined in the IPCC's 5th Assessment Report.⁴
3. That the fossil fuel industry, by extracting, processing, promoting and facilitating the use of, selling and profiting from fossil fuels, as well as by having a major influence on government policy, is complicit in causing climate change and its catastrophic impacts.
4. That we must do everything in our power to rapidly reduce the global use of fossil fuels and expand clean energy alternatives
5. That our university should be a role model in society, acting responsibly and helping create a safe future that is better for everyone.
6. That the University of the West of Scotland's commitment to tackling climate

1'Carbon bubble will plunge world into another financial crisis - report', 19 April 2013, <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/apr/19/carbon-bubble-financial-crash-crisis>

2 <http://peopleandplanet.org/fossil-free>

3 <http://gofossilfree.org/commitments/>

4 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/sep/27/ipcc-world-dangerous-climate-change>

change should extend to its investment portfolio, as well as its own operations and research priorities.

Voice Resolves:

1. To mandate the SAUWS President to request quarterly updates of the Universities investment portfolio.
2. To mandate the SAUWS President to lobby for and secure student representation on all university investment committees.
3. For the SAUWS President to lobby the university to end all future investments in fossil fuel companies.
4. To mandate the SAUWS President to lobby the Careers Service to ensure no fossil fuel companies are allowed to recruit potential graduates onto campus, and to lobby for the provision by the Careers Service of ethical careers advice.
5. To mandate the SAUWS President to actively work with the UWS People & Planet Society and support their efforts in getting a commitment from the University of the West of Scotland to have it down in policy not to invest in the Fossil Fuel industry in the Future.

Date Passed:	25.11.15
Title:	Caring for Student Carers
Author:	Claire Smith, Ordinary Member
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 19/20

Student Voice Notes:

1. There are 6.5 million people in the UK, representing 10% of the population that care for an elderly or disabled relative.
2. It is estimated by 2030 the number of carers in the UK will have increased by 60%.
3. Carers provide an invaluable service to their cared for person/s, but also to their local community and to Scotland.
4. There is no national, comprehensive data available on the amount of students in further and higher education who are also carers.
5. 42% of students with caring responsibilities have paid employment alongside their time spent in education and caring to support them in their studies.
6. Carers in receipt of carers allowance who enter full time education automatically lose their entitlement to carers allowance.
7. Student with caring responsibilities are receiving the same funding as their peers.
8. Student carers have to sacrifice study or employment time in order to provide care.
9. Young adult carers are four times more likely to drop out of university than their peers.

Student Voice Believes:

1. The fact there is no national, comprehensive data on the amount of student carers in Further and Higher Education suggests there could be a large amount of students who are carers and are not receiving the support they are entitled to.
2. Students with caring responsibilities who have to work as well as manage their education and caring responsibilities in order to support their studies are under immense pressure. Therefore they are more at risk of mental illness and dropping out of their course.
3. Students with caring responsibilities may be less likely to return to full time education due to losing benefits and if they do return to education, it could reduce the number of unpaid carers in our society which in turn will increase the work load for our already struggling NHS
4. Students with caring responsibilities coming into full time education may feel they are being penalised when they are no longer receiving the benefit recognising them as a carer.
5. Students who have caring responsibilities and are not receiving support will struggle and this will have a negative effect on their studies.

Student Voice Resolves:

1. The executive committee to research how many student carers are in full time education at UWS.
2. The executive committee to campaign for funds to be set aside to support carers whilst in full time education at UWS.
3. The Executive Committee to lobby UWS to routinely ask all their students if they have caring responsibilities through the annual admissions process

4. The executive committee to lobby the government to change the restrictions placed on carers receiving carers allowance wishing to go into full time education.
5. The executive committee to raise this issue with NUS Scotland through a motion to their National Conference as soon as possible.
6. For SAUWS to support students at this university by adding our pledge to the Going Higher in Scotland campaign and to lobby UWS and NUS Scotland to do the same.

Date Passed:	30.03.16
Title:	Fighting against austerity, fighting for social justice and to defend and extend free education.
Author:	SAUWS Executive
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 19/20

The Student Voice Notes

1. Free tuition for European and Scottish students has been debated time and time again.
2. Free Education allows people from the most vulnerable and least privileged backgrounds to access higher education and make sure education is solely based on the ability to learn not the ability to pay.
3. With harsh austerity in place higher education and free tuition could be at risk.
4. Most students from low income families can leave education with over 22,000 pounds of debt.
5. Countries such as Germany offers free education for everyone.
6. People on low income and from liberation backgrounds are less likely to apply and be accepted for postgrad courses

The Student Voice Believes

1. Austerity punishes the poorest and most vulnerable in our society and presents a huge risk to our education system.
2. With Education Maintenance Grants cut completely and with George Osborne asking departments to prepare for cuts from 20% to 40% there is a huge risk that fees may be introduced in Scotland.
3. Education should be based on the ability to learn not the ability to pay and should be available to everyone.
4. Higher Education should be funded through progressive taxation because it isn't only benefiting the individual but in fact the whole of society.

The Student Voice Resolves

1. SAUWS will campaign for to defend and extend free education to as many groups in society as possible.
2. SAUWS should also campaign for social justice and against austerity.

Date Passed:	30.03.16
Title:	Continue Summer Safety Net Campaign
Author:	Jack Douglas, SAUWS President
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 19/20

Voice Notes

1. One of SAUWS' major campaigns has been to increase the Summer Support that UWS students get.
2. We have recently been informed that one major political party will endorse these asks. In addition to this two other potential Holyrood parties which are close to backing these asks.
3. Recently we have seen politicians side with the recommendations in our report, they have held the Scottish Government to account over the report and it's even been debated in the Scottish Parliament.

Voice Believes:

1. Because political commitment has been made, it is important that the next SAUWS team continues to work on this.
2. We are closer in achieving Increased Summer Support than we ever have before.

Voice Resolves:

1. To continue to treat The Summer Safety Net as one of the SAUWS priority campaigns for the academic year of 2016-17.
2. To make sure that politicians who have committed to our asks and recommendations stay advocates of the campaign and continue to push for it's aims.

Policy Passed in Academic Year 2016-17

Date Passed:	26.10.16
Title:	The Fight Until We Are Fee Free
Author:	Heather Armstrong – Senior Student
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 20/21

Voice Notes:

1. Universities across the UK have begun announcing fee increases from £9000 to £9250 in 2017 for RUK (Rest of UK) students.
2. The University of Edinburgh is one of these universities.
3. EUSA* and NUS Scotland have come out publicly condemning this move.
4. Fee increases in England are linked to the TEF, but will led to a sector norm across all of the UK.
5. International students already pay high fees to attend UWS.
6. SAUWS already holds free education policy but it does not set out any policy stances on the rising of fees until they are scrapped completely.

Voice Believes:

1. Increases to fees are linked to a market driven approach to education which we fiercely oppose.
2. The poorest and most marginalised students are the worst hit by fee rises.
3. These students are more likely to be debt aware and decide against accessing university, especially following the scrapping of Education Maintenance Grants in England and Wales.
4. UWS is a widening access university and any rises to fees at UWS is in complete contradiction to this.

Voice Resolves:

1. For SAUWS to fight any rises to fees for all fee paying students.
2. Publicly support other student associations/unions' in campaigns against fee rises.
3. Continue to work with NUS on campaigns which are in relation to the fees being charged to students.
4. For the SAUWS Executive to discuss sending a delegation to the NUS United for Education demo on the 19th November.

* Edinburgh University Students' Association

Date Passed:	26.10.16
Title:	Monitoring the Prevent Agenda at UWS
Author:	Heather Armstrong – Senior Student
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 20/21

Voice Notes:

1. The UK government's Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory requirement on public bodies and 'specified authorities' – including universities – to 'prevent people being drawn into terrorism' and to implement the 'Prevent' agenda.
2. The Act poses a number of measures that were built upon decades of previous 'anti-extremism' legislation that has served to legitimise mass surveillance and erode the civil liberties of people in the UK.
3. The Scottish duty on Prevent is slightly different to that of the rest of the UK but still cause for concern.
4. Under Prevent, lecturers across the UK have been known to report students as being 'at risk of radicalisation' for merely taking an interest in political affairs in class, or for observing their religion more closely, whilst politically active students have found themselves visited by counter-terrorism officers.
5. The National Union of Students (NUS) has policy opposing the Act and Prevent.
6. As a Charity, we as an Association are not legally bound to engage with Prevent.

Voice Believes:

1. The Government's counter-terrorism/security policy is fundamentally flawed in its approach; its operant concepts of 'extremism' and 'radicalism' are ill-defined and open to abuse for political ends.
2. Islamophobia is massively on the rise across Europe, is state-sponsored and legitimised by the mainstream media.
3. The government's identified 'warning signs' of "radicalisation" problematise and renders suspect towards those with mental health difficulties.
4. That the Act could serve to isolate many students who already feel that the only avenue through which the Government will engage them is 'anti-radicalisation' initiatives, resulting in further alienation and disaffection.
5. The Act further criminalises Muslims and Black people, and comes amidst a campaign of fear and demonisation from the government.
6. The Act discourages free expression and analysis of ideas. Academics, as well as anyone in a public sector job, should not have to be part of this surveillance.
7. We fundamentally believe that universities and colleges are places for education, not surveillance
8. The implementation of the Prevent Strategy on campus may not only isolate Muslim and disabled students but undermine the civil liberties of other groups such as environmental, political and humanitarian activists.

Voice Resolves:

1. For SAUWS to use a position on the 'UWS Prevent group' to monitor and challenge, when appropriate, the implementation of Prevent agenda at UWS.
2. To seek out campus Trade Unions' stance on Prevent and work with them, where appropriate.
3. For SAUWS officers and staff not to be included in any training on the Prevent agenda, which is not in line with the believes held by the Association.
4. To lobby the university to be open and transparent about how they are engaging with Prevent and other similar initiatives. This involves demanding the publication of how the policy is operating within the university and access to materials used to train staff and students.
5. Calling for UWS to hold consultations with the student body regarding how the implementation is affecting students.

Date Passed:	26.10.16
Title:	TEF Off!
Author:	John Black – President Education
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 20/21

Voice Notes:

1. The UK government has introduced the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) as a means of measuring the quality of education at Universities across the UK
2. That in Scotland, we have the Quality Enhancement framework (QEF), governed by an independent body (Quality Assurance Agency Scotland) to ensure quality of education at Scottish Universities
3. That as of October 2016, UWS has no official position on adopting TEF at the university
4. That in England and Wales, TEF ratings will allow institutions to raise tuition fees
5. One of the metrics of TEF is 'non-continuation rates' which measures the retention rates of universities.
6. UWS has had a historical problem with retention of students

Voice Believes:

1. Scotland has traditionally been much better at quality enhancement than the rest of the UK.
2. That some of the metrics that are used to measure quality of education are inadequate as they do not measure quality but measure satisfaction through NSS data
3. That raising fees in England and Wales will have consequences for RUK student studying in Scotland.

Voice Further Believes:

1. That TEF is being used in a way which will have negative consequences for all students in the UK.
2. Retention being used as a measurement of success may result in Universities being closed off to students who are from widening access backgrounds.

Voice Resolves:

1. That the Association is vocal in their opposition to TEF.
2. The Sabbatical Officers lobby the University's Principal and senior management team not to adopt TEF at UWS
3. That the Association works with the NUS in Scotland and the UK to prevent TEF from being rolled out in the Scottish HE sector.

Date Passed:	20.03.12 (passed: 30.11.16)
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Title:	Library Fines Amnesty
Author:	Jamie Kinloch
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 20/21

Council notes:

1. That students are currently allowed to borrow up to 15 books from the university library.
2. That fines are capped at £10 per book.
3. That in the most extreme circumstances, students could owe a total of £150 in fines.
4. That students with overdue loans and fines will be prevented from graduating and that limited access to resources may be a barrier to education for students moving between third and fourth year of their studies.
5. That all libraries in Glasgow are currently holding a fines amnesty, encouraging those with overdue books, CDs and DVDs to bring them back, have their fees waived and re-engage with what their library offers.

Council believes:

1. That unreturned items are a problem for students who want to borrow a book that is in the possession of someone else and can lead to reduced library resources for all students.
2. That fines are used by the university as a deterrent and that foregoing the income derived from them for one week would have no detrimental economic impact on the university budget.
3. That if university policy on fines prevents students from graduating, the university and the student association has a duty to ensure students are aware of this and to provide them with opportunities to address the situation.

Council resolves:

1. To lobby the university management and librarian for a one week amnesty, during which overdue books can be returned and fine balances reset to £0
2. To hold a number of on campus events (including lecture announcements, PR and posters and an all student email) before and during amnesty week to encourage as many students as possible to return their books.

Date Passed:	19.04.12 (Passed: 30.11.16)
Title:	A Helpline On Student cards.
Author:	SAUWS LGBT Group
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 20/21

Council Notes:

1. UWS is one of the few institutions in the west of Scotland to have no helpline or emergency number at the back of their studentcards.
2. It is in the Student Association's and the University's best interest to keep students safe.
3. Students are more likely to suffer from stress and other types of mental illnesses.
4. Students in some social groups can be more unsafe than others, such as students who are woman, disabled, BME, LGBT and so on.
5. Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonia University both have a contact number on the back of their studentcards ran by nightline.
6. Nightline is a confidential telephone and online listening and information service ran by trained students for the students of Glasgow Caledonian and Strathclyde Universities.
7. On nightline you can discuss private issues, if you are stressed, in danger, if you are not coping or even just want a gab.
8. The City of Glasgow College is also looking at becoming part of nightline.

Council Believes:

1. Students' time spent at university is supposed to be some of the best years in a student's life, not the worst.
2. By having a helpline or emergency number it will allow students to voice their problems.
3. Any helpline or emergency number at the back of a students' card is better than no number at all.
4. A helpline or an emergency number at the back of a studentcard will benefit ALL students.
5. All new studentcards should have an emergency number or helpline such as something like nightline, the police or an equivalent.

Council Resolves:

1. For SAUWS to discuss with the people who run nightline, to see if it is possible for the University of the West of Scotland to use their number.
2. For SAUWS to lobby the University of the West of Scotland to change the back of studentcards to have an emergency phone number or helpline, such as nightline or the contact details for the police or something similar.

Date Passed:	30.11.16
Title:	Gender Neutral bathrooms
Author:	LGBT+ Liberation Group, Kate Morrison LGBT+
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 20/21

Voice Notes:

1. That UWS does not currently have any gender neutral toilets.
2. The only bathrooms which are available as gender neutral are disabled toilets.

Voice Believes:

1. That urinating is not sexual
2. That this issue, should be a non-issue. The world will not end if everyone uses the same toilets.
3. Every home has gender neutral toilets
4. That gender neutral toilets are important to ensure the continued safety of LGBT+ students, particularly those that do not define as cisgender (people who identify as the same gender as they were assigned at birth)
5. That gender neutral toilets should not be created from pre-existing accessible bathrooms, which are used predominately by disabled people.

Voice Resolves:

1. To mandate the Sabbatical Officers to lobby for the creating of Gender Neutral toilets in the new Lanarkshire campus and all existing campuses.
2. That the Students' Association shows its support for gender neutral toilets by transforming at least one bathroom to be gender neutral on each of its sites by the end of the 17/18 financial year.
3. That the toilets should be labelled as "gender neutral" or "Toilet" with no other designations or symbols, save for a notice which may explain who can use the toilets after they are first put in.

Date Passed:	30.11.16
Title:	We stand with Spanish Students
Author:	Socialist Student Society, Stuart Mill
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 20/21

Voice Notes:

1. There has been widespread strike action in Spain by students due to the government's neoliberal policy agenda.
2. This has included a 66% increase in tuition fees, pricing many students out of an education.
3. There has also been a deep austerity cut to schools and colleges, leading to teacher shortages

Voice Believes:

1. That privatisation and commercialisation of places of learning is wrong and divisive.
2. Students and teachers across the world should stand in unity and solidarity against austerity in our education system

Voice Resolves:

1. That SAUWS will always fight for free education
2. That SAUWS support Spanish students, and students in all countries, who are fighting against austerity cuts to their future
3. That SAUWS will send a message of support to the Sindicato De Estudiantes Student Union who organised the strike.

Date Passed:	22.03.17
Title:	Enterprise and Entrepreneurship support
Author:	Tommy Reid
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 20/21

Voice Notes:

1. There is a limited support towards students and graduates looking to develop business ideas.

Voice Believes:

1. The Enterprise Zone, the School of Business and Enterprise and the Enterprise Services that UWS provide only benefit a few and not everyone.
2. The benefited few are those who win contests that are relevant to enterprise and entrepreneurship studies.
3. That this current set up is not enough to support other students wishing to pursue their business idea.

Voice Resolves:

1. For SAUWS to work with The Enterprise Zone, the School of Business and Enterprise and the Enterprise Services to raise awareness of the assistance available for students and recent graduates with business ideas.
2. For SAUWS to work in partnership with UWS to explore the viability of financial support as well as other sources of support for students and recent graduates who wish to pursue their business idea.
3. That SAUWS work in partnership with UWS to explore options for the introduction of an incubator style hub with mentoring activity to assist students and recent graduates who are starting or developing their business idea.

Date Passed:	22.03.17
Title:	Better offerings from UWS Canteens
Author:	Arnault Bembo
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 20/21

Voice Notes:

1. That UWS have class timetables which sometimes do not allow students to move between buildings or classes for long enough to have lunch or a snack in the canteens and some classes are scheduled up to 5pm.
2. That other than vending machines there is nowhere else on campus to get healthy food after 2.30pm at Ayr, Hamilton and Dumfries Campuses.
3. That in the buildings where vending machines are available, there is little variety in the foods offered
4. That none of the foods offered at vending machines can be considered "healthy" ;
5. The Catering Service at UWS recently undertook a survey to better understand what staff and students want from the canteens at UWS.

Voice Believes:

1. That it is unfair for students to be restricted to eating only crisps or chocolate bars if they don't have time between classes to get lunch;
2. That we have a responsibility to ensure and safeguard the appropriate conditions of health and wellbeing for students;
3. That students should always have access to adequate nutrition for as long as they are on campus;
4. That many of our students struggle financially which can prevent them from eating in the canteen as prices of food is expensive and there are few discounts available.
5. That there should be a selection of food which caters for other dietary preferences such as vegan and pescatarian.
6. That as a result of the catering service survey, the catering service at UWS is doing more to accommodate different dietary needs and healthy eating options.

Voice Resolves:

1. For SAUWS to safeguard UWS students' right to an environment which allows them to thrive without having to starve themselves;
2. For SAUWS to lobby the University Catering service to keep the Canteens open until all daytime classes have finished.
3. That SAUWS lobby the University management and Catering Services to install vending machines with a wider variety of foods, including fresh fruit and Veg before the beginning of the next academic year;
4. To ensure that, in the larger buildings, the University produces an appropriate number of such vending machines within easy reach for students;
5. For SAUWS to work with the University to ensure that the foods on offer at the Canteens are healthy and take account of other dietary preferences and that all students have the opportunity to eat something to their liking, including meat free products.
6. That SAUWS work with the University to look into the viability of installing microwaves on campus for students who can't, or don't want to, buy food from the canteens while on campus.

¹ Understanding "healthy" as the NHS recommendation for a "healthy, balanced diet", reference available online at <http://www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/1127.aspx?CategoryID=51>

Date Passed:	22.03.17
Title:	An Accountable SAUWS
Author:	Cameron Stuart
Scheduled for Lapse:	End of AY 20/21

Voice Notes:

1. That no SAUWS Executive Committee minutes or reports have been released for the entirety of the 2016/17 Academic year
2. That only one set of minutes from the Board of Trustees have been released, and not since September 2016 – in previous years there have been up to ten minutes released.
3. That no External Trustee currently sitting on the board has been ratified by Student Voice – a constitutional requirement
4. That there is no guide to the Constitution of SAUWS currently available.
5. That, when policies are passed by Student Voice, no further update is given on SAUWS' implementation of these policies.
6. That, aside from areas contained in Accountability Reports released by the Union Chair, there is no publicly accessible document on Sabbatical election manifestos and promises.
7. That the voting turnout for the SAUWS Elections 2017 was 6.71% - 1035 students out of 16446
8. That the President of SAUWS is both the Chair of Executive Committee and Chair of the Board of Trustees

Voice Believes:

1. That SAUWS Executive Officers should be accountable and transparent to all students.
2. That the Board of Trustees, which is responsible for financial decisions regarding important student matters, should also be transparent in its meetings and composition.
3. That the Constitution should be followed by SAUWS, and Student Voice's right to ratify appointments to the Board of Trustees must be respected. To not do so is not only unconstitutional, but also against the democratic principles that SAUWS stands for.
4. That the Constitution, as the principal document of SAUWS, should be accessible and understood by all students.
5. That when Student Voice passes policy, students have a right to know what happens with it afterwards.
6. That students should be able to see Sabbatical election manifestos throughout the year, to ensure they are sticking by their promises.
7. That, with such an incredibly low turnout of students, it is more important than ever that SAUWS make itself as accessible as possible for students looking to hold it to account.

Voice Resolves:

1. That the President of SAUWS is mandated to ensure that Executive Committee minutes and reports are released no longer than one month after any Executive Committee meeting is held, and that this continue every year without fail.
2. That the President of SAUWS, in their role as Chair of the Board of Trustees, is mandated to ensure that Board of Trustees minutes are released no longer than one month after any Board of Trustees meeting is held, and that this continue every year without fail.
3. That the Executive Committee of SAUWS produce a guide to the Constitution.

4. That the President of SAUWS is mandated to work with the Union Chair, to ensure that information regarding the implementation of policies passed by Student Voice is publicly accessible, and regularly updated.
5. That all Sabbatical Officers are mandated to ensure that their election manifestos are online and easily accessible to students by the beginning of each Academic Year.