

## All-Student Forum

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

18:00-20:00

### Agenda

1. **Welcome**
2. **Executive Officer updates (5 minutes)**
  - a. Full update provided in minutes
  - b. PresOpps provided an update from the President team.
3. **Main Bar Survey Results - Main Bar Consultation**
4. **Floor Open for unrestricted topics and discussion**

Questions were raised to the Chief Exec and the President of Union Affairs regarding the changes to Main Bar.

Attendees asked questions regarding the menu changes to Main Bar which was advised that changes would be made to the menu to coincide with the partnership.

Attendees asked why the union was losing money. The Chief Exec advised that the business model of the union was out of date. There were challenges as well such as RAK and covid that reduced the income of the union and there was a heavy reliance on reserve funds. The deficit the union is facing caught everyone off guard, but the union is doing something about it to ensure reliable revenue.

Attendees asked about the specifics on the franchise contract. The Chief Exec explained that the franchise control will be the union. The preferred franchise option is Wetherspoon and they allow the Union to have control over the franchise. Since they have had other partnerships with Student Unions, they understand the uniqueness of the demographic such as having sport on the TVs, societies using the space and St Andrews' uniqueness as well.

Attendees asked if there is a deadline with Wetherspoon. It was explained there is an open deadline. However, ideally the decision will be made by mid-march.

Attendees asked if Wetherspoon will be hiring more employees (students). It was explained that the union will have complete control over hiring and how many student staff are hired will depend on the success of the franchise.

Attendees asked if there is a timeline for when the hiring freeze will be lifted. It was explained that the Student Association Board will be meeting at the end of February to discuss if the hiring freeze will be lifted.

Attendees asked if there is no loan from the University what does that look like. It was explained that if the university says no, commercial banks aren't ideal but there is a possibility. The Union could survive at least 12 months, but it wouldn't be ideal.

Attendees asked if the franchise plan going to contribute to a new thinking of strategy. It was explained that yes, the franchise will contribute to the strategy but the Union's strategy will be done with student consultation over time.

Attendees asked how to remove the political elements of Tim Martin. Examples of other Student Unions were provided, such as Newcastle whose students welcomed Time Martin to have a conversation about the magazines. The magazines have toned down the rhetoric. It was also important that this union shows students what is meant by a franchise in that it's our space and a student space.

Attendees asked what the 1 million pound would solve in the union. It was explained that the money will:

- Create a kitchen
- Expand the cellar
- Redecorate Main bar to look like a pub
- Modernise Main Bar

Attendees asked if Main Bar will be a student bar. It was explained that non-students can walk into Main Bar and 601 now, but there will be a cut-off point to ensure it is a student only space. It was explained that Newcastle and Hull have two different crowds. Daytime vs Nighttime. It was also explained that if the union is kicking people out to make room for students, that is a good problem to have.

Attendees asked about the union still doing external events. It was explained that there would still be external events.

Attendees asked if Rectors and Old Union Café money would be going to the Union. It was explained that yes, Rector's and Old Union Café goes into the union. Old Union is not part of the franchise. Rector's is 95% not part of the franchise, but this is still being discussed.

Attendees asked how the union would operate during the day as far as study space. It was explained the union lacks a study space and we need a 24hr study option. The President of Education advised that Beacon Bar is being looked at as a study space as well as the top floor being turned into a study space.

Attendees asked questions about societies being able to use main bar as a space. It was advised that there is an overall lack of space in the union in general. The Student Engagement interns or the PG presidents don't have a desk to work. It's something the union is looking into to ensure there's adequate space.

Attendees asked about the levels of reserves and is there a guarantee the money will go into the student spend. It was explained that the point is to stop spending the Block grant on operations- things in commercial.

Attendees asked why the union had taken until now to share information about the franchise in the All-Student Forum. It was explained that franchising in main Bar was presented at the first All-Student Forum in November 2025. The reason it is being presented is for accountability and transparency. The Chief Exec advised that there can be another presentation done about the reason for the franchise decision. Chief Exec gave an overview of the state of the union, the lack of senior management and the finances of the union prior to his arrival in August 2025. Advised the point of the Change Programme was to put these things in place and find a positive way forward for the union to be sustainable for years to come.

The Main Bar discussion concluded with a last question about what societies can do to help the union. It was explained that societies can continue to attend the forums, especially the opportunities forum and continue to be engaging.

Before moving on to any other business, it was explained that the union will keep students involved and informed of the Main Bar process going forward and continue to be transparent about what's happening.

## 5. AOCB

### a. Elections – Head of Student Engagement

Head of Student Engagement provided an update regarding the dates of the Election:

Nominations open on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb and close on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Voting opens 25<sup>th</sup> March and closed 26<sup>th</sup> March. Results will be announced on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

### b. Draft Laws Working Group Update – President of Opportunities

The President of Opportunities provided an update regarding the Draft Laws Working Group. The group had met one time since the meeting and have established the parameters of the group and how the different parts of the Laws will be divided among the group.

The Draft Laws working group consists of ten students, President of Student Opportunities, Campaigns and Impact Coordinator and Head of Student Engagement.

The working group has established meeting dates and the goal is to have the Laws ready to be presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> June All-Student Forum.

There was a discussion about the Democracy Review and the confusion of the current Chair being in the position when they weren't elected or appointed. However it was explained that during the Democracy Review the conversation stalled in respect to the Chair of the SRC and whether the role would be elected.

It was discussed that the feedback from the first All-Student Forum, students didn't want an Exec officer to chair the meeting and wanted an independent

voice. It was decided that the previous chair would take up the role since they had not been voted out in the previous election.

It was decided that there should be a vote on the current Chair of the All-Student Forum and the role should be added to the elections.

c. One Union Awards - Nominations Open 11.02.2026 – President of Union Affairs

The President of Union Affairs gave an update about the One Union Awards. Nominations open on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. The awards ceremony will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The President encouraged everyone to put their nominations in to celebrate the wonderful volunteers of the union.

d. Opps Forum Chair Vote – President of Opportunities

The Opportunities Forum asked that the vote for the chair of the Opps forum was taken to All-Student Forum.

Jacob Carey was invited to the floor to give a speech on why he wanted to be the chair of the Opportunities forum.

Jacob was the only candidate for the role and was asked to leave the room while the attendees of the forum voted.

Jacob Carey – 24 votes  
RON (Re-open Nominations) – 0 votes

Jacob Carey was elected as Chair of Opportunities Forum by a unanimous vote.

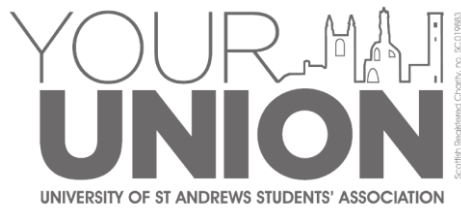
There was a point of order called for the Chair of All-Student Forum to be officially elected into their role.

Luke Baird was the only candidate for the role and was asked to leave the room while a member from the exec team chaired the vote.

Luke Baird – 24 votes  
RON (Re-open Nominations) – 0 votes

Luke Baird was elected as Chair of All-Student Forum by a unanimous vote

DSN raised an additional AOCB regarding Freshers Fayre and the accessibility of the fayre. They raised their concerns about not being able to get around the fayre in September. It was also discussed that changes were made to Refreshers, but the President of Wellbeing and Community and



Head of Student Engagement would be in touch to discuss changes for Freshers to ensure the accessibility of the event for the future.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 20:30.