

APPG for Students

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 2pm on 15th June 2021

Attendees:

Paul Blomfield MP (Chair)
Alison Thewliss MP
Caroline Lucas MP
Wera Hobhouse MP
Diana Johnson MP
Alex Sobel MP

Apologies:

Jason McCartney MP
Lord David Willetts
Lilian Greenwood MP
Daniel Zeichner MP
Lord Tim Boswell

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and explained that the minutes of the 2020 AGM were not available.

2. Overview of last year

The Chair gave a short verbal report on the activity carried out by the APPG over the past year:

- Inquiry: calling for student rent refunds, hardship funds, and learning remediation fund
- Meeting with HE/FE students to discuss return to university and Covid-19 challenges
- Q&A for HE students with Michelle Donelan
- Cross-party letters on student support and return to university

3. Income and expenditure

The Chair reported that there had been no income or expenditure. NUS had given limited staff 'support in kind' in providing the secretariat.

4. Election of officers:

Paul Blomfield MP was elected as Chair (and to act as the named contact). The following Vice-Chairs were elected:

Caroline Lucas MP
Alison Thewliss MP
Jason McCartney MP
David Willetts
Wera Hobhouse MP
Alex Sobel MP

5. Election of Secretariat

The members approved the re-appointment of the National Union of Students to provide the Secretariat for the APPG, subject to the Chair confirming that they were able to provide the resources needed for the role.

6. **Future activities**

Members agreed future events should include a further Q&A for students before the summer recess, a meeting in the autumn on challenges faced by students on recovery from Covid and issues faced by students as a result of the pandemic, and a meeting in January on housing. It was also noted that the Group would need to consider how to engage with the Government's response to the Augar Review. In discussion:

- Wera Hobhouse MP suggested joint work with the Erasmus APPG on the Turing scheme.
- Alex Sobel MP highlighted issues with assessment and the continuation of remote learning, which could be considered as part of the autumn event.
- Alison Thewliss MP raised the particular problems for students doing practical subjects in making up lost learning.

7. **AOB**

The Chair highlighted the for a quarantine plan and extension of visa flexibility to manage the arrival of international students in September.

The Chair closed the meeting at 2.30pm.