
University of Aberdeen Debater

Annual Plan - Academic Year 2016/17



Produced by University of Aberdeen Debater Council

Charity No. SCO30962

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Letter from President

The Aberdeen University Debater is the oldest student organisation in the University. Aberdeen Debater is also the oldest debating society in Scotland, founded in 1848 as King's College Debating Society and followed by Glasgow in 1861, St. Andrews and Edinburgh in 1890. Since the foundation of Aberdeen University in 1495 debates have been held, but it is only in the last 150 years or so that the students have taken over the running. The Debater's aims have always included the desire to promote free speech on campus, for that reason our motto is: "They haif said: Quhat say they: Let thame say." This was also the motto of George Keith, 5th Earl Marischal and the founder of Marischal College.

In the coming year, this council will be focused to welcoming a new, diverse membership. We will focus on our future, by providing training and networking to our members on a competitive front, whilst continuing to hold our lively weekly debates. Furthermore, we will pursue bold ambitions for the year - as detailed in this plan - to ensure the future success, accessibility and security of our society.

To do this, as a council, we shall aim to have regular face-to-face meetings to set motions that are interesting and accessible to a wide range of students with a mix of current topics in the media and traditional classic debate issues. In addition to this, we will strive to achieve what we have set out in this document and adhere to our roles as defined by the University of Aberdeen Debater.

We look forward to an exciting and successful year.

Yours,

Finia Kuhlmann

Debater President 2016/17

Debater Council 2016/17

Executive Committee



President

Finia Kuhlmann



Vice-President

Maura Buchanan



Treasurer

Sam Elliot

General Committee



Weekly Debate Sec.

Lewis Keller



IV Convener

Lebeko Matabane



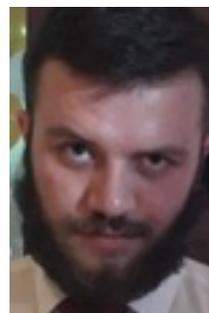
PR and Minutes Sec.

Ryan Houghton



Equity Convener

William Lamb



Social Secretary

Harry Chalkin



Schools Convener

Ryan Famiglietti

Focus and Goals for Academic Year 2016/17

Student Engagement

The following events are planned for the following academic year:

- Small Societies Ball and Christmas dinner
- Aberdeen Open and the SSDC Pro-Am
- Earl-Marshall Debate
- Collaborations with other societies, alignment with AUSA events

Further events

- Debater Brunch
- Free wine show debates, min. 2 per semester
- Speaker Drinks at the end of each semester

Advertisement for show debates

- Posters around campus and distribution of flyers
- Event pages on Facebook, email distribution and webpage
- Fresher's week: leaflets, flyers and banners, hoodies
- Contact with newspapers around Aberdeen for bigger debates and the Gaudie

Access

- Collaborate with societies and liberation groups to get new students to attend debater
- Actively approach new members and prioritise traditionally marginalised groups on the table
- Introduce policies for affirmative action such as the new WUDC trial policy
- Ensuring access to competitions for all students with financial support

Competitions

- Attendance at all Scottish Competitions
- Support and encouraging of Pro-Am engagements around the UK to improve skills
- Economical use of resources when attending competitions while ensuring access to students who would otherwise be restricted from attending without financial support
- Hosting of own competitions to make Aberdeen visible in the Scottish circuit

Training and Improvement

Competitive Training

- Further develop matter files and content information and make it publicly available online using cloud storage and services such as YouTube
- Weekly practice, short-prep debates with short strategy sessions
- Workshops by external trainers

Skill Training

- One hour before the weekly show debate to fulfil our educational mission statement
- Focus on general applicable skills such as public speaking, rhetoric, structure & argumentation
- Collaboration with AUSA and University support services

Aims of Aberdeen Debater

Get more Aberdeen students involved:

- Increase attendance to public debates
- Increase engagement in competitive debating
- Widen access to historically underrepresented students (such as non-white students, women, LGBTQA+ and disabled students)

Purposes (OSCR official)

- The advancement of education
- The advancement of citizenship or community development

Finance and Budget

Charity Status

In the coming year we will see to it that our charity status is updated and returned to an active state as a priority.

Income

As a priority and given the financial uncertainty faced across the University and its affiliated societies and clubs, we aim to seek a sponsor who can provide funds to support the activities and aims of our organisation for the coming year, with a view to form a longer-term relationship with a sponsor. By doing this, we can secure funds to action our plans as a council, but also the future financial security of Aberdeen Debater.

In addition to sponsorship, we hope to apply for University funds through the Grants and Trust to support some of our activities both on campus and competitively.

Expenses

Weekly Debates

We will continue our weekly debates as well as allocating funds for 'show' debates - funds mainly being spent on hospitality - which we expect will gather a larger audience and help us recruit more members to the society.

National Competitions

To ensure continue the development of the competitive debating branch of our society, we have allocated funds for competitions we would hope to attend with a delegation of at least two debaters and a judge. The following debates are the ones we have highlighted as giving the greatest potential for experience, networking thus making them the most fruitful to the development of Aberdeen Debater and its members:

- Edinburgh Cup
- Glasgow Ancients/ Womens
- Scottish Mace
- St. Andrews Open
- Strath Cup
- Bog wall

By highlighting these early, we hope to gain greater interest among our debaters to attend, as well as save money by arranging transport earlier.

International competitions

We hope to send a delegation of two debaters and one judge to both WUDC (Worlds) and EUDC (Euros) in the coming year. Due to the travel and high registration fees, we force this as being the greatest cost to the society, something which we hope to offset with sponsorship. In addition to travel to these competitions, we hope to send teams to acclaimed competitions within the UK such as either Oxbridge opens or Pro-Am. To develop the skills of new debaters, as a council, we will allocate funds to allow promising debaters to attend pro-am debates with experienced and willing partners to allow for the development of these debaters - which would hopefully be fed back into the society through input in training.

Our events

We are in a very privileged position to be hosting an exciting roster of events in the coming year including: Aberdeen Open, Aberdeen Schools, Scottish Pro-Am, as well as our Earl Marischal Debate. We hope to make a profit on most of these events, however, we have allocated funds in the event that they do not and have also provided for any promotional materials, expenses that may go with holding these events.

- Weekly Debates
- Scottish Competitions
- International
- Our Events

