



APPG for International Students

AGM Minutes 2020

8 January 2020 9:30am

Attlee Room, House of Lords

Attendees:

Paul Blomfield MP (Chair)
Alison Thewliss MP
Stephen Timms MP
Mark Logan MP
Baroness Warwick
Baroness Uddin
Baroness Garden

Apologies:

Lord Bilimoria
Lord Willetts
Caroline Ansell MP
Ben Lake MP

1. Welcome

The meeting began at 9:30am and was declared quorate by Co-Chair Paul Blomfield MP. The Chair noted that this meeting would formally re-start the APPG in the new Parliament.

2. Minutes 2019 AGM

The members reviewed the minutes from the 2019 AGM which were sent electronically.

Minutes Approved

3. Report of Activity 2020

Paul Blomfield presented a short oral report on the activity of the APPG from July 2019 to November 2020 which had several cancelled events due to the proroguing of Parliament and the General Election. The report also included an outline of the financial contributions and expenditures of the APPG which left the APPG with a negative balance at the end of Parliament in 2019. This was due to the House of Commons not completing or agreeing to refunds from the cancelled events.

The Members noted that the majority of APPG activity prior to the last AGM in July 2019 has been moving forward the recommendations from the APPG Inquiry: *A sustainable future for international students in the UK*. There was recognition of the enormous progress that has been made politically since the Inquiry report was published and many of the recommendations have been addressed by government.

The secretariat noted that due to the short time period between the 2019 AGM and the General election the group did not meet the threshold for submitting an Income and Expenditure Statement but one has been prepared for the group members for transparency purposes.

Paul Blomfield MP asked for the report to be approved.

Approved

4. Approval of Income and Expenditure Statement

Paul Blomfield asked members to approve the Income and Expenditure Statement which would be published on the website and submitted to the APPG Registrar within 28 days of the AGM.

Approved

5. Election of Officers:

Seven Officers were nominated in advance to roles with the APPG:

Co-Chair (named contact): Paul Blomfield MP (Lab)

Co-Chair: Lord Bilimoria

Secretary: no nominations (Mark Logan MP nominated on the day)

Treasurer: Baroness Uddin

Vice Chair: Alison Thewliss MP (SNP)

Vice Chair: Baroness Warwick

Vice Chair: Lord Willetts

Mark Logan MP was nominated at the meeting for the vacant role of Secretary.

All Officers were elected.

1. The Members requested the secretariat approach Ben Lake MP to join as a Vice Chair to give additional perspective on Wales.

Paul Blomfield noted that as per communication from the APPG Registrar, another General Meeting would need to be held with quoracy to elect a new officer for the group. Should Ben Lake MP agree, such a meeting would be organised for members to elect him.

2. Approval of Secretariat

The Members approved the re-appointment of the Secretariat – Independent Higher Education and noted the excellent service provided by the Secretariat. The Members thanked the Secretariat for their work.

3. AOB and Close

Future areas:

The members noted that future work should continue to be aimed at achieving the Inquiry report recommendations.

The secretariat noted that the International Education Strategy will be due for a review this coming spring and this may be something the APPG wishes to be involved with.

The secretariat also noted that the APPG annual Celebration of International Students had to be postponed due to the General Election and is currently provisionally re-booked for 25 February 2020. Confirmation and invitations will go out shortly.

The Chair asked the secretariat to send a list of all possible future areas of work and events to the Officers for their consideration.

TOIEC Students

Stephen Timms MP brought forward the issue of the thousands of students impacted by the TOIEC English language scandal and that many are still in the UK fighting to clear their names. He noted that the previous Home Secretary had agreed a way to move forward positively for these students but this has not been a priority with the new Home Secretary. The APPG agreed to create an action plan to work with Stephen Timms MP and the students to support their efforts to clear their names and complete their studies.

Co-Chair Paul Blomfield closed the meeting at 10:00am

The meeting was followed by a roundtable with members of English UK and the Association of Colleges.