



All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Students

Minutes of the 2022 AGM

16 May 2022, 15:15-15:30

Committee Room 1, House of Lords

Attendees:

Paul Blomfield MP (Co-Chair)
Lord Bilimoria (Co-Chair)
Alison Thewliss MP (Vice Chair)
Baroness Uddin (Treasurer)
Baroness Warwick (Vice Chair)
Lord Willetts (Vice Chair)
Lord Johnson
Baroness Garden

Apologies:

Ben Lake MP (Vice Chair)
Caroline Lucas MP
Mark Logan MP (Secretary)
Carol Monaghan MP

1. Welcome

The meeting began at 15:25 and was declared quorate by the Chair Paul Blomfield MP.

2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The members reviewed the minutes from the 2021 AGM.

Minutes Approved

3. Report of Activity 2021-22

Members reviewed a report of the activity of the APPG from 2021-22 presented at the meeting.

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 as part of the annual report on the within 28 days of the AGM.

Approved

5. Election of Officers

All current officers had indicated prior to the meeting that they were content to be nominated for re-election in the same roles. The following nominations were made ahead of the meeting:

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

Co-Chair: Lord Bilimoria (cross bench)

Secretary: Mark Logan MP (Conservative)

Treasurer: Baroness Uddin (non-affiliated)

Vice Chair: Alison Thewliss MP (SNP)

Vice Chair: Ben Lake MP (Plaid Cymru)

Vice Chair: Baroness Warwick (Labour)

Vice Chair: Lord Willetts (Conservative)

The Chair welcomed a further nomination from Baroness Garden at the AGM:

Vice Chair: Baroness Garden (Liberal Democrat)

All of the above nominated Officers were duly elected.

6. Approval of Secretariat

The Chair proposed the reappointment of the Secretariat, Independent Higher Education, and noted the excellent service they continued to provide. The Members thanked the Secretariat for their work. It was noted that the APPG members would continue to encourage support for the APPG from English language and Independent Schools, colleges and universities within their constituencies.

Reappointment of the Secretariat approved

7. Future areas of activity

The APPG members noted the planned activities set out by the Secretariat for 2022:

International Alumni

21 June, 14:00-16:30

Partnership routes to the UK: Understanding how collaboration and partnership brings international students to the UK

20 October, 10:00-11:30

International Students' Day

17 November 2022, 15:00-16:30

The APPG members noted areas of work that had not been completed in 2021:

- Volunteering – right and opportunities
- International student hardship
- Code of Practice for education agents
- Work placement opportunities for EU students in the UK

The APPG noted that BUILA had recently completed a code of practice for education agents and would welcome more information on this area of work.

The APPG members noted additional areas to explore for 2022/23 and recommended a meeting with the Co-Chairs and Secretariat to explore how these might be addressed:

- Gathering of evidence on challenges on work placements – short sharp enquiry
- Improving the application experience for students and universities: Application fees
- De-risking markets for students by creating escrow accounts to prove maintenance funding
- Challenging the list of nationalities identified as lower risk and subject to differential (lower) evidence requirements
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/appendix-student#differential-evidence-requirement-for-a-student>
- Study Abroad – The Turing scheme doesn't have a return leg – How do we encourage more students to study abroad in the UK.
- Review the success of the graduate visa alongside the completion of its second year on 1 July 2023, when the first students will complete their visa.

The Chair Paul Blomfield MP closed the meeting at 15:45pm.

The AGM was followed by a roundtable on international student employability and the graduate route visa with students, employers, higher education providers and sector experts.