A1 Autumn Committee Reports 2020

Organization:	Democracy and Accountability Committee
Resolution date:	12/02/2020
Agenda item:	A Reports of the Elected Committees

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Contents

Overview and Methodology **2**

Information in Reports 2

Order of Reports 2

Executive Committee (EC) **3**

Rosie Rawle, Co-Chair 3

Lily Fitzgibbon, Co-Chair 5

Rajiv Sinha, Treasurer 5

Jane Robb, Non-Portfolio Officer 8

Kelsey Trevett, Non-Portfolio Officer 9

Sarah Sharp, Non-Portfolio Officer 9

Annabelle Van Dort, Non-Portfolio Officer 10

Fay Whitfield, Non-Portfolio Officer 10

Vacant, Non-Portfolio Officer 11

Democracy And Accountability Committee (DAC) **12**

Committee Technical Report 12

Isaac Searle, Chair 16

Heloise Hunter, Committee Member and Complaints & Disputes 17

Nick Humberstone, Committee Member 17

Ria Patel, Committee Member 17

Green Students Committee (GSC) **18**

Billy Wassell, Co-Convenor 18

Jane Baston, Co-Convenor 19

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Overview and Methodology

Information in Reports

All individuals elected in the Annual Ballot of the Young Greens of England and Wales must write four Quarterly Reports over the course of their term in office. These reports should detail any key activities undertaken in their respective role. Reports are written by all those on the Executive Committee, all those on the Democracy and Accountability Committee, and the Co-Convenors of the Green Students Committee. In addition, the Democracy and Accountability Committee as a whole compiles a report detailing any rulings made, as well as any minor textual amendments to the ruling documents. If representatives do not complete their reports, it will be made clear in this document and during the associated accountability sessions.

Order of Reports

Committees are ordered in this document as they are in the Constitution - the Executive Committee established by Byelaw One, followed by the Democracy and Accountability Committee established in Byelaw Two, followed by the Green Students Committee established in Byelaw Three. Within each Committee, the reports of the Co-Chairs, Chair, or Co-Convenor come first, followed by the Treasurer or Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee Convenor if applicable, followed by other roles on each resective body. Within each role, names were selected completely at random to appear in the order in this document.

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Executive Committee (EC)

Rosie Rawle, Co-Chair

The last three months have been a challenge due to the ongoing crisis, lockdowns and a tumultuous political landscape, but even so, our new team has approached every project with an unbelievable amount of energy and optimism that I'm really delighted to have witnessed and been a part of.

Induction, handover and strategy work

In the early weeks after being re-elected, I worked closely with Daisy, our staff member, to coordinate a handover from the former exec and an induction for the new team. This involved quite an extensive number of welcome, induction and strategy online calls, including coordinating and attending 1-2-1s with exec officers together with Lily, and also attempting to bring liberation groups into the fold too with the help of Kelsey. I also spent some time working with Rajiv to develop a draft budget for the year ahead.

Digital comms work

Since digital comms was a gap that needed filling on our team, I have taken on this area of responsibility for the exec. For now, this has meant developing a proposal for sign off processes, and working with Daisy and Fay as a small working group to begin auditing our channels. This work will hopefully inform the basis of a new social media strategy. As part of the digital comms role, I have also started to work with Jane Robb to design a network of core scripts for internal use across a range of issues, and to further develop our narrative on building power through the coronavirus crisis. Finally, day to day, I have been managing our social media accounts, drafting and sending emails, uploading articles to the website, and creating action network events when needed - all often with the help of Daisy, which is greatly appreciated!

Representing the Young Greens within the wider party

Throughout the three months I have attended and engaged heavily in all GPEx calls, pushing for political accountability of various projects and raising concerns from within our network. I have also presented learnings from our Political Education work to the party's Development Committee, presented our elections work to the South West AGM with Lily, and attended PolComm meetings.

In addition, we have worked to position ourselves as experts on the issue of Higher Education within the party, drafting top line communications for the press and comms team, and working to get our messages amplified by party channels. This has taken the form of working closely with

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Jane Baston from our Green Students Committee to work up a key messaging document, give advice on quotes from party officials and provide key arguments for a ghost written piece to press.

Green Party Autumn Conference

For Autumn Conference, I delivered a welcome session for the 'Young Greens Meeting' with Lily, was a guest speaker for Green Left's online event, and worked with Jane, Jane and Anabelle to deliver a main panel session on the crisis in education which was highly attended. I also drafted our annual report to Conference, and produced some comms work encouraging members to vote in favour of key motions that the Young Greens were either officially co-proposing or mandated to back.

Supporting to political education work

I am very excited about our political education programme due to launch in the new year, thanks mostly to the incredible energy and work of Jane Robb. As part of a small working group I have helped with the strategy and content of the new series, and also produced a funding bid to FYEG for just over £2000, which would go towards bolstering and expanding this work. I have also helped to coordinate and deliver the promotion for a number of online talks that we have delivered in recent months.

Support to Corporate Finance Campaign development

Working with Billy from the Green Students Committee, and a small working group of exec members, we have developed some plans for how to approach building a new campaign on ditching corporate finance from universities. We are preparing for the research and development stage to occur this year so that it is fully ready to launch in Sept 2021. As part of this, I have met with a contact at People & Planet to discuss ideas for strategy and collaboration, as well as drafted up a list of other key stakeholders to reach out to with a knowledge of the HE sector.

Other work and responsibilities

As co-chair I have also worked with Lily to prepare agendas and chair exec meetings and meet regularly with our staff member. With the help from head office and also Daisy, I have also been looking into getting our safeguarding processes strengthened and officers trained. And lastly I've been part of a small working group to coordinate the political aspects of this event and manage the promotion.

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Lily Fitzgibbon, Co-Chair

As newly elected Co-Chair, the handover period involved lots of training and settling into the role. I am super grateful for all the work of the previous EC on this front. During this time I had one on one meetings (often with Rosie) with each member of the new EC to get a clearer idea of what they wanted to achieve over the next year. We also had a series of meetings with each of the co-chairs of our Liberation Groups, along with Kelsey (Equalities Officer). We then held an online “away day” to set out our group priorities for the year.

I also attended the GPex handover meetings and training weekend, as well as having a personal briefing with a staff member and phone call with the Chair of GPex. Since then I have been attending the monthly meetings with Rosie.

I have taken on the roles of events officer and coordinating local groups work, as they were clear gaps not covered by our Non-portfolio Officers. Daisy and I have created a plan for a large online call for local groups and societies to take part in, hopefully to run monthly. We are aiming to carry out the first social call before Christmas and to launch our SW committee off the back of these connections. I have also met with Sarah and Billy (both based in the South West) to plan our next steps for the committee. I attended and spoke at the South West conference and the lack of active young people in the region was particularly clear.

I also met and worked with the Green Students Committee to make sure that this work can support societies without overlapping with existing projects they are running.
For Events, I helped create our Comms for the Autumn event, meeting with Rosie and Faye to discuss messaging, sessions for the day and key speakers.

Rajiv Sinha, Treasurer

I was elected as Treasurer in August. So far my efforts on the Executive Committee can be split into three main activities. First (1.) - my duties that come from my specific role as Treasurer; second (2.) - a campaign I pursued against farmed fur products, and; third (3.) - work to help broader committee activity. I will give much more detail on point 1. as this is my main responsibility, but I am happy to answer on points 2. and 3. in accountability sessions or if contacted.

1. Soon after the committee formed, I set about meeting with each committee member one-on-one to get a sense of individual priorities. The aim of this was to give me an idea of what projects committee members wanted to, and were likely to, pursue over the course of the year, aside from standard Young Greens activity like elections work and broad campaigns. Individual priorities might have diverged somewhat from the Executive Committee’s group priorities, so I thought getting an idea of both would help me create the most accurate budget possible.

   These meetings proved to be very helpful and ended up being one of the three main factors that I put together to make the final budget. These three elements were: last

year's budget, which set a good precedent, especially given the amazing work of last year's Treasurer and committee; our group priorities, which set the overall direction to be pursued this year, and; the committee members' individual priorities, which make up a good part of our day-to-day business.

The budget process was very daunting at first, given that I had never worked with a budget before, but there were plenty of people and resources available to help me with this. The previous Treasurer has been very important in my transition, and the handover document provided to me has been essential in ensuring a smooth start to the budget process. Daisy, the Young Greens Administrator, has been immensely helpful in this process too, helping me particularly with the income side of the budget and with communicating with the finance team at the central Green Party. Rosie too has helped me more than she ought to have, drafting an immaculate document - our "narrative document" - explaining the budget in prose.

A lot of the processes that we have gone through in creating the budget this year were new but very valuable - in particular, the narrative document is a welcome addition to the budget process as it gives an opportunity for the rest of the committee and members more broadly to go through and understand the budget in great detail. It unpicks technical language and symbols, making the budget more accessible and democratic in spirit, which I am very happy about. I have noted down all new processes and will be including them in the handover document so that future treasurers and committees can benefit from, and improve upon, them.

Communication with the central finance team was a big theme, especially early on as our ties were more limited. That issue has now been rectified and there is an open channel between me and a member of the finance team who has been very supportive, sending me regular updates on our actuals, giving me access to our actuals, and giving me information (and access thereto) our donor information. This theme of communication is one that we must continue to prioritise as we must be kept in the loop regarding our own finances. Sadly this member of the central finance team is leaving his role as of the 30th November, but he has assured me that I will continue to be provided with any information needed by the person that assumes his duties, which is likely to be either the Head of Finance or one of the new job-share Financial Controllers.

The current Head of Finance at the central Green Party is new to the job but has made a smooth transition, engaging with me and Daisy to make sure we understood the budget process and timeline. The only issue to have come from this was that we initially were expected to submit our budget in a different format to that which the Young Greens have usually used. This caused issues and delayed the completion of our budget by some weeks as the new format simply did not work for our purposes. It was difficult to make our budget clear in this format that was designed for the main Green Party. It doesn't make sense to format our budget in the same way the main Green Party does, we are two quite different organisations as far as budgeting is concerned.

Luckily this problem was resolved as we were ultimately allowed to present our budget to the central team in our own format. Before sending our budget to the central team, we underwent an internal process of confirmation that took some weeks as well. The time taken here was due to proposed revisions. This year is of course a strange one, with

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

high uncertainty due to COVID-19. This meant that a lot of effort has gone into reallocating funds from their positions last year, as events and activities that would have been in-person are now online.

On one level this is hugely beneficial in that a lot of costs have been reduced or cut entirely - we are running a very healthy budget to say the least. But from a management perspective, this poses some challenges as we have to be seen to be using (and therefore needing) our money. This is something that we will review regularly over the course of the year. Further complication arises from that fact that we would like to leave some surplus money for the next committee to inherit, partly because we think this is good practice and partly because we don't know what exogenous shocks next year's committee will face (we certainly didn't know what we were going to be dealing with this year). Therefore, we have to engage in a balancing act with the budget, spending enough money and spending it on our stated priorities to signal organisation and foresight, but not spending everything that we have, leaving next year's committee penniless and without a cash buffer, which would be bad for the Young Greens in the long-term.

Finally, fundraising is something that I intend to develop over the course of this year. I would like to do two big fundraising events. The first of these was discussed at our most recent Executive Committee meeting on Thursday 26th November. The date of the fundraising event, which will be a quiz, was settled for Wednesday 16th December. I have started organising this. I have more or less figured out the format of the event - I have organised two fundraising quizzes to support the Green Party's London electoral campaigns so I have some experience with this, which will be very helpful. We hope that these fundraisers will bring in further money that can be put towards our efforts as a committee and an organisation.

Young Greens
Budget - Oct 2020 to June 2021 (Draft)

Opening balance as of October 2020	**£**	£24,183.00									
GPEW Direct Grant (minus Daisy's salary)	-	£880.00	£880.00	£880.00	£880.00	£880.00	£880.00	£880.00	£880.00	£880.00	**£7,920.00**
Regular Donations	-	£220.00	£230.00	£230.00	£230.00	£230.00	£280.00	£280.00	£280.00	£280.00	**£2,260.00**
One-off Donations	-	£10.00	£10.00	£210.00	£10.00	£10.00	£160.00	£210.00	£10.00	£10.00	**£640.00**
Merchandise Sales	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**
Convention Stalls	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£160.00	**£160.00**
Convention Access Fund Donations	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£400.00	**£400.00**
LE2021 Crowdfunder	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£1,000.00**
Total	-	**£1,110.00**	**£1,120.00**	**£1,320.00**	**£1,120.00**	**£1,120.00**	**£2,320.00**	**£1,370.00**	**£1,170.00**	**£1,730.00**	**£12,380.00**

Expenditure type	**Code**	**Oct-20**	**Nov-20**	**Dec-20**	**Jan-21**	**Feb-21**	**Mar-21**	**Apr-21**	**May-21**	**Jun-21**	**Total**
Political Education and Skills Training		£0.00	£40.00	£40.00	£290.00	£290.00	£1,540.00	£1,540.00	£1,910.00	£1,910.00	**£7,560.00**
Issue-based Campaigns Development	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£230.00	£530.00	£530.00	£230.00	£230.00	£230.00	**£1,980.00**
Elections	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00	**£3,000.00**
Active Greens Fund	-	£0.00	£375.00	£375.00	£375.00	£375.00	£375.00	£375.00	£375.00	£375.00	**£3,000.00**
Speaker Network	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£600.00**
30u30	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£5,000.00**
Convention Costs	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	**£1,000.00**
Autumn Event Costs	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£100.00**
Ringfenced Convention Access Fund	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£600.00	**£600.00**
EC/SPC Away Day	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	£0.00	**£300.00**
FYEG Affiliation Fee, Transfer, and VAT	-	£0.00	£265.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£265.00**
FYEG GA Travel	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**
FYEG GA Fees	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**
Zoom Subscriptions		£255.92	£63.98	£63.98	£63.98	£63.98	£63.98	£63.98	£63.98	£63.98	**£511.84**
Financial Transactions/Banking Charges	-	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4.00	£6.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	**£10.00**
Total	-	**£0.00**	**£743.98**	**£478.98**	**£1,162.98**	**£1,564.98**	**£3,858.98**	**£8,208.98**	**£3,728.98**	**£4,178.98**	**£23,926.84**

2. Further to my specific duties as Treasurer, I have pursued a campaign against the farmed fur products of a company that I felt to be flagrantly out of line with the values of the Young Greens. For this, I wrote a statement that is on our website, I wrote social media posts that were put out on Young Greens channels, and I got prominent voices to publicise the issue. I think this was a successful campaign - it received a good deal of publicity and it helped to raise money in a crowdfunder for some protesters that were caught up in the whole process. The crowdfunder was to help the protesters pay for their legal fees when they were taken to court by the company.

3. I have tried to help with broader committee activity wherever I can, although I certainly could have done more. I have been limited by various time commitments this year, but my activity to this end includes attending all meetings to date, participating in discussions, and editing statements and documents.

I have given some thanks already, but only to the people who helped me with the technical parts of the budget process. Everyone in the committee was incredibly helpful and proactive in this process, so I would like to thank them all for that and for helping in the countless other, broader ways that they have. I would also like to thank the members of the Young Greens for their backing and trust. This is an amazing, supportive group to be a part of - I am hugely grateful to be here and have this opportunity to contribute to the Young Greens.

Jane Robb, Non-Portfolio Officer

I put together a strategy document outlining the vision for the political education portfolio. This led to the development of a core narrative script in collaboration with Rosie which will be used to guide our key messages for important topics in fighting through the crisis for political education and comms. As a part of this, I have also been writing shorter narrative documents for sub-sections of the overall core narrative (e.g. education, global justice etc.).

I also made draft pages for political education on the website - one landing page and a couple of pages for past recordings and details of the different political education offerings within the core narrative, as well as a survey in collaboration with Kelsey on equality and diversity of our members and their political education interests (yet to be disseminated). I also contributed to the budget discussions on political education with Rajiv.

I have been co-leading with Rosie on the programme of political education events we are running, putting together spreadsheets which everyone has contributed to with suggested titles and speakers for events.

As part of the Green Party Conference, I led on the planning and chairing of a panel on education. I also co-planned and facilitated a session on locking down schools - the first official event of this year's EC, helped Billy and Rosie organise the event we ran on tackling transphobia and collaborated on behalf of the Young Greens with the Jewish Greens to run an event on GRT rights.

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Kelsey Trevett, Non-Portfolio Officer

As the newly elected Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion officer, without an officer filling the portfolio last year, I have spent the first few months in my role establishing connections with the newly-elected Young Green liberation group committees, many of which are starting from scratch with very few prior resources to draw from.

- In the first few weeks, I organised and attended meetings with all newly-elected co-chairs (and some committee members) of Young green liberation groups, to discuss plans for the coming year, any key projects/aims, and to establish in the short-term where skills/training was required to actively engage in the work of the liberation groups. This included training on Action Network, and familiarisation with the Young greens Exec structure.
- Alongside Rosie and Lily, I helped to deliver, and follow-up from, a strategy evening workshop with all liberation group co-chairs, in order for them to feed into our wider strategy for 2020/21, and for us to establish connections between their aims/objectives, and those which we had established as an Exec committee.
- I have begun work on creating a survey to connect liberation group committees with Young green members who identify as belonging to those liberation groups, in a way which protects anonymity as much as possible, and also enables us to establish the current diversity within our membership.
- I have begun to develop a strategy to connect our liberation groups with their memberships within the Young Greens membership as a whole, but also to each other, to create coherent and meaningful relationships between liberation groups, encouraging intersectionality. This has also included creating a manageable workspace for committee members to communicate with each other, and directly with EC, to maintain momentum and communication.
- On top of this portfolio, I have helped with other projects as and when I have been able to, including in drafting a response to the situation regarding university students and Covid-19 earlier in the autumn.

Sarah Sharp, Non-Portfolio Officer

I have used my first half to firstly build **stronger international relationships** with different green party organisations:

- Registered, attended and contributed to Federation of Young European Greens Annual Congress alongside Robert Nixon in August 2020.This was a 2 day event which consisted of debating motions and amendments, voting on these and voting for a new FYEG committee. During this event I reached out to a number of other international officers to make connections and make YGEW more known and integrated in FYEG's work.
- Attended meetings with North Region European Greens (Finland, Norway, Sweden, Scotland and Ireland) every other month and utilised networks to plan future events. This also involves working with committee members of FYEG. I have utilised this space to learn from other European Young Greens on their processes and draw ideas on how to increase membership diversity and create engaging events.

- In the process of organising a joint event with Swedish Young Greens on 'The Effects on Brexit on Environmental Legislation'.

I have also worked to deliver **events and partnerships** with various global Young Green groups:

- Facilitated workshop for Albanian Young Green councillors. This consisted of a workshop on being a young person in politics (Amy Heley) and a workshop on how to run effective campaigns (Rosie Rawle).
- Supported East Africa Talent Accelerator programme by linking up YGEW mentors to support Young Green candidates in Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda. This was in conjunction with The Westminster Foundation for Democracy.
- Worked with Scottish Young Greens to deliver an online event on 'The Effect of a Green New Deal on Rural Areas' featuring Molly Scott Cato (ex-MEP) and Ariane Burgess (MSP candidate for Highlands).

I have utilised my role within the **national party**:

- Attended International Committee meetings and pushed for Young Greens International agenda. This area I would like to work more on moving forward.
- Provided a letter of recommendation for Alice Hubbard (outgoing International Co-ordinator for GPEW) to be on Global Young Greens committee. This bid was successful

Annabelle Van Dort, Non-Portfolio Officer

No report submitted to the Democracy and Accountability Committee.

Fay Whitfield, Non-Portfolio Officer

I am using the first half of my year as a non-portfolio officer to focus on press work, while in the second half of my year I will focus on membership work.

My role so far has mostly involved making sure that the Young Greens can publicize their views in shareable long-form press releases and media statements. I want to put in place measures and systems that ensure we can always generate engaging press content while I focus on membership in the second half of my year. This has involved:

- Regenerating the news/ blog section of the Young Greens website, so that we are publishing either our own content or guest content on a regular basis. This has involved writing several statements myself.

- Creating a template for writing statements so that anyone is able to confidently write a good statement or news piece.
- Creating a pack/guidebook of templates for different forms of media content especially for student groups so that they can release their own press - this is undergoing review and will hopefully be released in the new year.
- Reviewing our speaker network, adding to the network, cleaning the network and updating the information we have on our speakers so that we can select speakers for different jobs more effectively. This is an ongoing process throughout the year.
- Completing a call out matrix for the recruitment of the speaker network - this is to be implemented with the next Executive Committee.
- Devising a recruitment process for the speaker network which is to be implemented with the next executive committee.
- Working with Rosie and Daisy to review our social media content and form a new social media content strategy.
- Researching media training for our speaker network, 2021 election candidates and those who wish to be on the network in the future. At the moment I am in the process of negotiating prices and hope this will be delivered in Feb/ March.

After the media training has been delivered I will be turning my attention to the duties of Membership Officer. My primary goal will be to review the ‘customer journey’ of anyone joining the Young Greens so that we can translate more members and into activists.

Vacant, Non-Portfolio Officer

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Democracy And Accountability Committee (DAC)

Committee Technical Report

The Democracy and Accountability Committee (DAC) has made a number of minor textual amendments to the Constitution and Standing Orders, for purposes of clarification, which shall be outlined in this report. DAC has also made a number of rulings which will be written here.

Ruling: Executive Committee Handover Period:

DAC Chair Isaac Searle (IS) was asked by members of the former 2019 - 2020 EC and the new 2020 - 2021 EC about the role handover period mentioned in RoPS insert "Strengthening National Young Greens events and our Executive Committee election cycle" passed at Convention on 4/11/2018. IS advised that the former EC (2019 – 2020) cannot spend YG funds or hold responsibility for the budget as there is no mention of a handover period anywhere in the Constitution or Standing Orders, the RoPS insert fails to give any authority to the outgoing EC over fiscal responsibilities. IS also affirmed that could the former EC still spend funds for up to two months as is the period in the RoPS insert, there would be no accountability over this as they are no longer in post. IS issued this advice prior to consulting DAC on this matter but advised aforementioned members that they would consult the rest of DAC promptly.

DAC concur with IS advice given on monetary and fiscal responsibilities during the handover. It was noted that the relevant insert in the Record of Policy Statements was not comprehensive, there must be further clarification in the Standing Orders if there were to be a handover period of any significant substance.

DAC agrees to uphold and implement IS advice from the first paragraph into this ruling. It was noted that other aspects of the handover period and the nature of it as described in the Record of Policy Statements insert should be further discussed at a later meeting to determine a clearer structure and set of rules relating to this.

In upholding this advice, DAC rules that the former EC (2019 – 2020) cannot spend YG funds or hold responsibility for the budget as there is no mention of a handover period anywhere in the Constitution or Standing Orders. DAC additionally rules that the RoPS insert fails to give any authority to the outgoing EC over fiscal responsibilities. DAC also rules that could the former EC still spend funds for up to two months as is the period in the RoPS insert, there would be no accountability over this as they are no longer in post – they do not have control over funds.

Ruling: Liberation Group Names - One:

DAC was asked "Can Liberation Groups change the base name of the group?" and after discussion, DAC ruled that Liberation Groups' have some ability to change names autonomously. However, it was clarified that this group name change cannot alter the groups' membership nor past/future membership, unless this is proposed and ratified by the regular EC Liberation Group approval system.

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Ruling: Liberation Group Names - Two:

DAC was asked the question “Can Liberation Groups change the order of words in the name?” and DAC agreed this was possible, but it must remain clear it is a Young Greens group, by including either ‘Young Greens of England and Wales’ or one of the accepted abbreviations ‘Young Greens’ / ‘YG’ in the title.

Ruling of Clarification: Liberation Group Names - One:

DAC rule that, whilst Liberation Groups can change their group name with some autonomy, this change is not a technical nor binding one. For the names of Liberation Groups to be changed, they must be changed via passage of an amendment to the Constitution, altering the official group name.

Ruling: Executive Committee Quorum:

The Young Greens Executive Committee currently consists of and is capped at nine voting members. Byelaw 1, Clause 1, Subclause 7 of the Young Greens Constitution defines the decision-making quorum for Executive Committee decisions as “50% + 1 of all EC members”. DAC rules therefore, that quorum for decisions of the Executive Committee is exactly six members.

The mathematical basis for this ruling is as follows: 50% of 9 = 4.5. 4.5 + 1 = 5.5. You cannot have 5.5 people and 5 would be below this threshold and therefore would not satisfy quorum. Thus, quorum stands at six members on this nine member committee. This ruling is consistent with Robert’s Rules of Order, the gold standard for meeting procedure.

Ruling: Standing of the Green Students Committee:

DAC rules that the Green Students Committee (GSC) is a committee distinct and separate from the Executive Committee (EC), and GSC is accountable to the Young Greens membership at-large.

Ruling: Number of Safeguarding Officers:

DAC rules that no more than one Safeguarding Officer may be in post after appointment by the Executive Committee each year. In addition, DAC rules that no more than one Deputy Safeguarding Officer may be in post after appointment by the Executive Committee each year.

Ruling: Five-Year Period under Standing Order A1.4:

DAC rules that the first five-year period established by Standing Order A1.4 runs from 2021 to 2025. The basis for this five-year period is set out in Section A of the Standing Orders and can be seen below.

> A1.4 Within each five-year period, as determined by DAC, the Young Greens Convention must take place within the bounds of at least three of these four Region Blocks:
> A1.4.1 The South East, and the South West
> A1.4.2 The North East, the North West, and Yorkshire and the Humber

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

A1.4.3 The Midlands, and Wales
A1.4.4 The East, and London

Ruling: Threshold for Autumn General Meeting Vote of No Confidence

DAC rules that D.6 two-thirds supermajority supersedes D.7 simple majority, Votes of No Confidence require a two-thirds majority to pass at the Accountability Session of the Autumn General Meeting.

Ruling: Autumn General Meeting Censures and Commendations - One:

DAC rules that motions of Censure and Commendation do exist and can be put forward and passed at the Accountability Session of the Autumn General Meeting.

Ruling: Autumn General Meeting Censures and Commendations - Two:

DAC rules that Motions of Censure and Motions of Commendation can be put forward in the Accountability Session itself, with text written to summarise the motion during the session.

Ruling: Autumn General Meeting Censures and Commendations - Three:

DAC rules that Censures are formal, public to the membership, expressions of disapproval by the Membership towards an individual or body, expression of criticism.

Ruling: Autumn General Meeting Censures and Commendations - Four:

DAC rules that Commendations are formal, public to the membership, expressions of praise by the Membership towards an individual or body, expression of praise.

Ruling: Autumn General Meeting Censures and Commendations - Five:

DAC rules that Censures and Commendations can be passed with a simple majority at the Autumn General Meeting Accountability Session.

Minor Textual Amendments to the Constitution and Standing Orders

DAC approved of every instance of change of SPC to ‘DAC’, and of ‘Structures and Procedures Committee’ to ‘Democracy and Accountability Committee’.

On alterations in Article 5:

In 5.1, It was noted that the C&D committee should be referred to as a sub-committee and as such all references to committee have been changed.

In 5.6, the Equality and Diversity Portfolio officer was considered specific language. It was suggested that the Equality and Diversity Non-Portfolio officer should be explicitly included in 1.1.3 of Byelaw 1 of Byelaws of the YGs and has been added. In 5.13, ‘appealer’ was altered to ‘appellant’ and this change was approved. Byelaw 1 alteration of ‘ Section D’ to ‘Section E’. In Byelaw 2, ‘chair’ and ‘co-chair’ capitalisation was discussed. ‘Chair’ was agreed upon to have a capitalised ‘C’. ‘Co-chair’ was not resolved, and it was agreed to return to this discussion. Capitalisation of ‘Byelaws’ and ‘Constitution’ was agreed upon, as was the addition of ‘s’ to indicate plural features. In Byelaw 2.1.3, ‘referred to as co-chairs’ was changed to ‘co-chairs’. In Byelaw 3, NUS was changed to National Union of

Students. It was suggested that DAC move towards no simplification of names and acronyms, this had support but was not resolved. In Byelaw 4, minor changes in grammar and clarifications were approved. The holder of the ‘Equality and Diversity’ portfolio was considered to be a permanent essential portfolio position and this was clarified in 4.10. In Byelaw 5, minor changes in grammar and clarifications were approved. In Section A, B, C, D, E, F, DAC approved of every instance of change of SPC to ‘DAC’, and of ‘Structures and Procedures’ to ‘Democracy and Accountability’. Minor changes in spelling, grammar, acronyms, and clarifications were approved. All references to ‘roles’ in E.3. were changed to ‘positions’ and this was approved. E.3.1. was clarified further and this clarification was approved. E.5.10, E.5.11, E.5.12, E.5.13, was clarified further and this clarification was approved. E.5.13.1 reference to ERO was changed to be solely DAC as stated in enabling Clause E5.13. Numbering in Section F of SO was discussed and agreed upon to remain unaltered.

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Isaac Searle, Chair

As Chair of the Democracy and Accountability Committee (DAC), I've convened fortnightly committee meetings, increasing to weekly meetings in the run up to the Emergency and Autumn General Meetings. We have efficiently handled ruling requests, and thoroughly discussed all rulings which have been made - I can give assurance that all of our rulings have been made after very thorough deliberations, where all DAC members have been open-minded and open to different styles of interpretation.

DAC have also moved to swiftly convene the Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee, so that all matters of this nature can be resolved through the proper processes and procedures, in keeping with timings outlined in the Constitution - I thank Heloise Hunter for her work on this as it is vital that we fulfil our obligations under the Constitution.

As an Emergency General Meeting (EGM) was called by the Executive Committee (EC), DAC quickly set up the democracy site, and ensured that all timings were met - in order to ensure that the Young Greens membership has sufficient time and notice to interact with our internal democratic processes - I thank Nick Humberstone's work on setting up the democracy site and resolving queries, this is a technically difficult but very important task.

In addition to this regular work, DAC plan on making our internal democracy more accessible, this long term goal will allow more members to understand and be involved in our democratic processes - I thank Ria Patel for her initial hard work on this project, which will help to explain our ruling documents and involved processes to our members.

Furthermore, DAC have issued a number of rulings on the Constitution and Standing Orders. I have led these discussions on rulings as Chair of DAC - irrespective of any personal opinions differing from our rulings, DAC stands by our rulings which have all been decided after length and thorough discussion.

In my role, I have made sure to attend all regular Executive Committee meetings in order to establish good relations with the Executive Committee, and so that our vital system of democratic checks and balances is upheld and implemented. Plus, I have swiftly conversed with EC members to respond to any queries and to offer advice on the Constitution and Standing Orders.

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Heloise Hunter, Committee Member and Complaints & Disputes

Attended all regular committee meetings

Discussed and contributed to rulings made by DAC

Organising the creation of the new Complaints and Disputes committee - have recruited volunteer support from YG members

Nick Humberstone, Committee Member

Attended regular meetings

- Attended regular committee meetings, and additional democracy session planning meetings for upcoming EGM
- Worked with DAC to decide rulings

Organising many of the digital aspects of the EGM

- Setup the digital democracy submission platform discuss.green
- Organised for digital voting at the EGM
- Helped people with submissions to the platform

Ria Patel, Committee Member

Attended all regular committee meetings.

Discussed and contributed to rulings made by DAC.

Updated the Young Greens Record of Organisational Statements 2020.

Discussed the democracy sessions of the Emergency General Meeting in weekly committee meetings leading up to the event.

Working on creating an accessible, more simplified version of the constitution and standing orders, so that more members can become involved with internal democracy.

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

Green Students Committee (GSC)

Billy Wassell, Co-Convenor

August

- Elected and immediately started planning the co-option of the GSC.
- Attended EC meeting on strategizing and priorities.
- Took lead responsibility for 2 EC campaign projects.

September

- Attended 1 GSC Committee meeting.
- Attended 1 EC meeting.
- Drafted email for opening of GSC Committee roles. Sent after collaborative editing.
- Interviewed 13 candidates for GSC Committee. Co-opted 5 of those 13.
- Re-established the GSC twitter account.
- Worked with EC on producing demands/top line messaging on the crisis in Education.

October

- Attended 2 GSC Committee meetings, chairing 1 of those 2.
- Attended 2 EC meetings.
- Drew up action plan for 'Ditching Corporate Finance' campaign. Campaign is ready to launch in the new year, with some societies already interested.
- Organised and published GSC thread on Black History Month.
- Attended informal chat with Bristol and Manchester YGs on how best we can support the rent strikes happening at their university.
- Helped UoM rent strikers with their publicity.
- Drafted website blog on 3 week delay to summer exams. Published after collaborative editing.

November

- Attended 1 GSC Committee meeting.
- Attended 1 EC meeting.
- Contacted Trans Actual for a talk on TDOR. Co-hosted that event.

Young Greens of England and Wales

Autumn Quarterly Committee Reports

- Attended two solidarity calls with UoM rent strikers on behalf of GSC.
- Submitted amendments to the Constitution for EGM which give greater clarity on GSC roles and responsibilities.
- Set up a steering group with Lily and Sarah regarding South-West Young Greens.

Jane Baston, Co-Convenor

The Green Students' Committee hasn't run for about two years so I've spent a lot of time, alongside Billy, working on how to run the committee. We've also spent some time deciding how to ensure that the EC and GSC are not duplicating work and that there is effective communication between the two bodies. Alongside this I've also been doing the following:

- Developed and under-taken the process to co-opted the Green Students' Committee members. Trained and welcome the new members to the GSC.
- Organised, chair, minuted, and done admin support for the fortnightly GSC meetings.
- Started to work on a campaign plan for education reform alongside the GSC members.
- Started work, alongside members of the EC, to develop a plan to support and develop our student societies.
- Organised GSC's social media for International Day of the Student.
- Attended a number of UCU solidarity movement events on behalf of GSC.

Work with the Executive Committee:

- Attended all fortnightly Executive Committee meetings to ensure that there are strong links between the Green Students Committee (GSC) and EC.
- Involved in the development of the strategy for the year and took the lead on a number of the projects.
- Worked with members of the EC to provide key messaging lines on the ever changing environment of Higher Education.
- Kept the EC and GSC updated on developments within the education sector that we might want to comment on.
- Contribute to EC messaging and blogs on higher education issues.
- Hosted/chaired a talk with NUS President Larissa Kennedy to talk about the crisis in our education system.