



All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Students

Minutes of the 2021 AGM

12 May 2021, 12:00-12:20

Online

Attendees:

Paul Blomfield MP (Chair)
Alison Thewliss MP
Mark Logan MP
Baroness Warwick
Lord Willetts
Virendra Sharma MP
Lord Johnson

Apologies:

Lord Bilimoria
Baroness Uddin

1. Welcome

The meeting began at 12:00pm and was declared quorate by the Chair Paul Blomfield MP.

2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

The members reviewed the minutes from the 2020 AGM which were sent electronically.

Minutes Approved

3. Report of Activity 2021

Paul Blomfield MP presented a short oral report on the activity of the APPG from January 2020 to March 2021 which included a hiatus due to the Covid pandemic.

- 8 January: Roundtable on the value of international students to the ELT and FE sectors (in Parliament)
- 5 November: Roundtable with the Government's International Education Champion – Sir Steve Smith (online)
- 17 November: International Students Day celebration (online)

It was noted that a meeting in March 2021 to hear from those involved in the TOEIC case had been put on hold at the request of its sponsor Stephen Timms MP.

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

All of the most recently serving 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:

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)

All of the 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 a letter signed by co-chairs inviting support of the APPG would be disseminated by the secretariat.

Reappointment of the Secretariat approved

7. Future areas of activity

It was agreed that when an update on the situation with the TOEIC case was received, the APPG would consider what further activity or support would be appropriate.

Topics previously suggested for activity in 2020 were noted:

- Graduate Route and employment
- Volunteering

Additional topics suggested by APPG's Advisory Group were noted:

- Visa support for Covid recovery
- Rebuilding the UK's English Language Teaching sector
- International student hardship
- Updated economic value of international students
- Code of Practice for Education Agents

Challenges with work placements post Brexit was raised as a concern by Lord Willetts.

It was agreed that letters to Ministers would be written in support of:

- Ongoing visa concessions

- Student accommodation being used as quarantine for international students

It was agreed that events would be held before the summer break on the challenges:

- in the English language sector
- with post-Brexit work placements

Further consideration would be given to an event after summer taking stock of progress with the recommendations in the APPG's 2018 Report '*A sustainable future for international students in the UK*'.

The Chair Paul Blomfield MP closed the meeting at 12:20pm.

The AGM was followed by a meeting with Graham Stuart MP, Minister of State for Exports and further discussion on progress in implementing the UK's International Education Strategy.