**COUNCIL REPORT APRIL – FIONA WHITELAW**

1. Accounts approved after detailed questions from Cllrs.  net assets of

£22,568,666 an increase of grants from the benevolent fund to members, and a £1M fighting fund for the Union to take strike action where necessary

I raised a question around benevolent fund and publicising that lapsed members can get support to rejoin when in financial difficulty

1. PWF verbal report around diversity and inclusion and an update on Safe Spaces. He is bringing a full policy update to a future Council meeting.

Remarks made in debate

How to make our Union spaces a place where we can have comradely discussion where members are empowered to raise issues without combative remarks etc

Cllrs made the following points– something where members agree to how the meeting will be conducted Clear guidelines on what language that is just unacceptable

Having a statement is great but sometimes this can become muted and silences people into not speaking out.

I made a made statement about linking this with training for members.

Vice President spoke about the situation in commercial theatre sexism and treatment of people

NI Cllr spoke specific situation of NI in relation to phrases like ‘You Watch yourself’

PWF reiterated that yes we need two different policies at work and in activism

We do not want to be welcoming to racists and bigots.

Vote to accept the standing orders at the meeting – we are agreeing how the meeting will run – reframing that as an agreement that is voted on at the top of a meeting.

1. Conference motions, amendment suggestion passed for ISC motion.

Motion passed for Council to send to conference and then onto TUC

Discussion on Scotland motion on student /training staffing, increase in staff in reality.Recognition of ways that working class people enter the industry, youth theatres and other places where people enter the industry as workers after attending.

Impact on student members in terms of courses that have closed recently.

Dugald amendment passing through the Lords re law affecting Spotlight case

Parliamentary group being set up again – now FEU Parliamenatry Group