

Annual Members Meeting (AMM)
09/02/16

Item No		Action
1	<p>Attendance</p> <p>1.1 Present Sammi Whitaker (SW) – President (Chair) Grace Anderson (GA) – Academic Officer Leigh Rooney (LR) – Experience Officer Essex (Vice chair) Guy Stepney (GS) – Head of Student Engagement & Communication Jordan Lewis (JL) – Rep Co-ordinator Cambridge Emma Howes (EH) – Rep Co-ordinator Chelmsford Naomi Rudd (NR) – Office Co-ordinator Cambridge (Clerk) Georgia Elderkin (GE) – Peterborough Students' Union Co-ordinator Matthew Ensor (ME) – Chief Executive Officer Daniel Login (DL) – Democracy and Representation Manager Fiona Caslake (FC) – Digital Communications Co-ordinator</p> <p>54 members assigned a proxy vote to the chairperson 12 members attended in person in Chelmsford 51 members attended in person in Cambridge</p> <p>1.2 Apologies Sarah Haider (SH) – Experience Officer Cambridgeshire Sophie May (SM) – Communications Officer</p> <p>1.3 Absent</p> <p>1.4 Declaration</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>2.1 Accuracy – The minutes were accepted as a true record. 2.2 Matters arising - None</p>	
3	<p>Amendment to Bye Law 11 The Amendment was introduced and explained by Cathy McGuire. The floor was opened for questions but none were asked.</p>	
4	<p>Executive Officer Reports</p> <p>4.1 Sammi Whitaker presented her report and highlighted some key activities, these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green week is now complete. The week's event had a number of activities to teach students about sustainability and how this can be adapted in the university. - SWi had given a presentation at a Cambridge University function and spoke about the Green Week and the impact it had to both students and staff. - Solidarity pledges – worked on this with LR as have had similar campaigns. - VCG (Vice Chancellors Group) – Worked with all the Officers and members of the staff at the Students' Union on a paper to give this years impact the SU has had with students and the university. <p>University Sustainability Strategy – Worked with university staffing group on the strategy. This has been accepted by the Board of Governors and will be available to all once this is printed.</p>	

	<p>- SU branding – worked on the Redbrick research and the New SU branding which will go live next Academic year. - Responsible futures – currently working on with the support from NUS. - Student strategy – This was handed over from DS, previous President but SWi has been continuing the work on this. The floor was opened for questions but none were asked.</p> <p>4.2 Grace Anderson presented her report and highlighted some key activities, these included: - Medical Centre- GA has been communicating with students about their experiences with the onsite medical centre. There has been a lot of negative feedback. GA and Student Services will be meeting with the medical centre to raise the concerns they have been receiving. - Education Forum – GA reported that the first education forum has taken place and the subject talked about what University feedback. A question was raised asking when the next one would take place and GA said that this had not yet been decided but will communicate once the date had been chosen. The floor was opened for any further questions and none were asked. GA invited anyone to come and talk to her if they wanted any more information about her one page plan.</p> <p>4.3 Sophie May. GA presented SM’s report and highlighted some key activities, these included: - Where my Rent Went – campaign is still running and more work will be put into it. - ARU SU TV – SM has helped students set up a society and this is now active. GA also recommended to speak to the society if there is an activity that you would like filmed. - SU media – working with the volunteering service to set up a database for students to get involved with everything SU including filming events, writing articles and blogging. - Community arts programme – working on a community programme where support can be given to people such as art for disadvantaged children. The floor was opened for any further questions and none were asked.</p> <p>4.4 Sarah Haider – LR presented SH’s report and highlighted some key events, these included: - Working on the campaign to make Social Space - Creative minds – leading project and have employed a staff member to work on this with SH. - Distant learner pack – packs being sent out to distant learners with some essentials to help studying. - Preparing for Global week. -Arranging the Sustainability fund and how it can be spent. The floor was opened for any further questions and none were asked.</p> <p>4.5 Leigh Rooney – LR presented her report and highlighted some key activities, these included: - Working with David Humber looking at social space on the Chelmsford campus and the possibility of a new SU building. - Global week preparation. - Clubs and Societies – 4 new societies have set up since Refreshers week. Also took part in the Experience week, where LR visited as many club and society events as possible. - Working on Diversity campaign. The floor was opened for any further questions and none were asked.</p>	
5	<p>Minutes of the Executive Committee held Thursday 5 November 2015, Wednesday 9 December 2015 and Monday 11 January 2015. SWi presented the minutes from the previous Executive meetings. SWi opened the floor for any questions but none were asked.</p>	

<p>6</p>	<p>Update from the Executive Committee The floor was opened for the committee to give updates if they wanted to. No updates were received. The floor was opened to question the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charlotte Hurden, Communications Rep Cambridge does not have a one page plan, why is this? - GA answered that CH did not have a plan however was giving support to other Reps to help promote their campaigns. <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Update on Previous Policy passed by Student Council SWi gave the following updates on previous policies passed at Student Council</p> <p>Policy 1: Close Inactive Clubs and Societies Accounts - Officially complete – future plans to make this part of process instead of a policy.</p> <p>Policy 2: Introduction of a Mature Students’ Rep -The Bye Law was not approved by previous Council – brought back to council again today.</p> <p>Policy 3: ATOS-MAXIMUS Off Campus - It is being researched by those responsible to see if they are still recruiting students. SWi reported that the company may have changed and was researching into this.</p> <p>Policy 4: Trans* Participation in Sport - Due to not electing any Trans* specific reps this policy has now been delegated to other officers.</p> <p>Policy 5: Specific Trans Student Reps - Complete – included in Bye-Law 11</p> <p>Policy 6: Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment - This is in progress – GA is looking into making this a bye law, more permanent, rather than policy.</p> <p>Policy 7: What a ‘Bloody’ Joke - Completed.</p> <p>Policy 8: Support the Living Wage - Student staff are paid the living wage but no campaign has been planned for University staff.</p> <p>Policy 9: Changing the Structure of Loan Payments - Article online for money saving tips. Meeting with NUS as policy has passed nationally so they will now take over the campaign.</p> <p>Policy 10: No Platform- To be reviewed – GA to look at other universities and their safe spaces. SWi said that these are constantly changing and need to ensure that this is kept upto date.</p> <p>Policy 11: Introducing Audio Recordings for Lectures With Little or No Visual Aids</p> <p>Policy 12: Gender Neutral Toilet - Currently putting together a paper about the importance and need for GNT’s.</p> <p>Policy 13: Where My Rent Went (WMRW) - Had a meeting with residential – guarantor help discussed. This ongoing and to be updated by SM.</p> <p>Policy 14: Up Your Grants - According to the union’s board of trustees this will need to be allocated from the management accounts.</p> <p>The floor was opened for questions, the following comment was made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closure of Clubs and Societies – GP said that all details could be found on the SU website and if students wanted to reopen any Societies, he recommended to speak to SH or Alun Minify. 	
<p>9</p>	<p>Policy</p> <p>9.1 We Want The Living Wage – GA presented the details of the policy. The floor was opened for questions, but none were asked.</p> <p>9.2 Save Our Space –Shona Hoey presented the details of the policy. The floor was opened for questions, the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q. How can we prove that the library is being used as social space? A. It is visible when the area is being used for other than study. -Not enough space or ability to have quiet time. - Can’t reserve a study space in library. - Daren’t leave the library to grab something to eat as scared we will lose our seats. - Agree that open space is being used as social space, its not quiet and have seen people drinking up there before. - Q. – Is this policy covering all campuses or just Cambridge? 	

A- Chelmsford are looking into getting a new building, so currently the policy has been written Cambridge's need for space.

- Students are sat around 6 computers but only using 2, there are no helpdesk staff anymore managing this.
- Have not been able to access the university during festive times such as the Christmas break. Security has stopped the access.
- Great news for Chelmsford campus getting a new space, however this should be protected and the university should ensure this will not be given to external companies before offering it to the students.
- Q. Does this policy cover the Academy, it is not comfortable and a canteen?
A. Academy is available the majority of the time, The SU has to book this for event nights.
- University should amend its open times, such as religious holidays do not suit all students at ARU.

SWi invited anyone to come and speak to the officer team if they would like to talk about this or any other issues found around campus.

9.3 Gender Neutral Toilets (GNT) – GA presented the details of the policy and opened the floor for attendees questions and comments:

- Statement of support – University already on board and not opposed to this.
- Q. Will this mean disabled toilets be converted to GNT?
A. Hope this won't be the issue, and this will be opposed to.
- The hygiene of the toilets are bad
GA said she would ask for one of the Officers to take this to the campus operations meetings they attend.
- Q. Would this be all toilets or would they spotted around the campus sites?
A. GA said the aim is to get one per building on all the campuses. Due to religious reasons this will give the student a choice. Joined buildings, for example LAB and Helmore in Cambridge should have 2.
- Disabled toilets will just be rebranded to cover both needs.
- Disabled toilets should not be used, as these students need their own space.

LR confirmed that the new building in Chelmsford plans will include GNT. SWi commented that the SU works with the university when planning new buildings or redesigning current spaces to include GNT. This policy would ensure that this is continued.

- Q. A student asked if new Cambridge building includes GNT?
A. GA answered that GNT are not included as original policy was passed after the plans had been drawn.

9.4 Allies Matter – LR introduced the policy, the floor was opened for questions and comments:

- Well written but does not define how you can be allies to Women, BME etc.
- Would LGBT+ be representative to their own views, if a non LGBT student ran in the election would they give the true view?
- Even if you self-define or not this would give you the chance to vote as an allies.
- Support the idea of this paper, the student would only be able to vote not run as this is not on the paper. If those opposed wanted to mess up the vote for the Rep, there is other ways they could do it other than via this channel.
- I am an Allie, but would not be comfortable in representing the views of the LGBT+ students as I don't understand their needs.
- Other universities don't have the self-define option, those who don't self-define can come forward and express their views either positive or negative.
- LGBT+ came forward to have a movement body. Understand the allies but education on LGBT+ should come first.
- All want the same thing but shouldn't everyone come together and influence people to make a difference?
- Q. Is there a problem with homophobia on campus?
A. There is no proof, but there have heard reports of this happening.
- The system the SU uses is modernised so if you did self-define it would be private anyway.

	<p>GA confirmed that all self-defining information is private and the SU can't see which members do click this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DL confirmed that if this was voted in their would be a technical change where you would self-define as LGBT+ or as an allie. - This would be good for students who aren't ready to 'come out' as LGBT+ - Would this be a good idea to take to the LGBT+ society to reach out how they feel? - GA closed the conversation. <p>From 7pm everyone would be able to vote on all the policies discussed.</p>	
10	<p>Any other business</p> <p>10.1 Council update – Daryl Sharpe asked if there was an update regarding the Officer Job profiles. DL answered that the Union is going through a full Democracy review currently with the support from NUS. All information would update by the end of the Academic year.</p> <p>10.2 Active Anglia – Stewart Watson asked if anyone had any feedback on the treatment they have received to please contact him via social media or student email.</p> <p>10.3 Election 2016/17 – DL promoted the upcoming Executive election. He gave a brief description of the 5 Full time roles and the Welfare roles that students can put themselves forward to stand for.</p>	
	<p>Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 25 April 2016: 16.00-19.00</p>	