

# Student Council meeting minutes 17/11/16

| Item<br>No |  | Action |
|------------|--|--------|
| 15         | Attendance 15.1 Present Grace Anderson (GA) – Education Officer Leigh Rooney (LR) – President Jamie Smith (JS) – Activities Officer (Cambridgeshire) Kat Younger (KY) – Welfare Officer Precious Nwanze (PN) – Activities Officer (Essex)  A full list of attendees is attached  15.2 Apologies None. 15.3 Absent  |        |
|            | None.  |        |
| 16         | Terms of Reference LR explained the terms of reference of Student Council. The meeting is an opportunity for students to submit and vote on policy. Officers are held to account on their objectives and current policies. Elected student representatives and committee members have voting rights. Their votes would be published and viewable to students. Voting opens from 7.30pm for a 24 hour period. |        |
| 17         | Minutes of the last meeting 17.1 Accuracy The minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous meeting. 17.2 Matters arising None.   |        |
| 18         | 18.1 Appointment of Students to Elections Committee Elections committee is a planning meeting where the rules and regulations of our elections are set and monitored. The current membership is SU Officers, staff and four student nominated by council. If a student is appointed onto the committee they cannot run in the election that year (faculty rep, campaign rep or an officer).                  |        |
|            | LR called for interested students to stand up and introduce themselves. A vote was called and the following students were voted onto the elections committee.  • Dean Mitchell – Chelmsford Student  • Nadia Graversen – Welfare Rep (Cambridge)  • Eeshan Khaire – Law Society Committee member (Cambridge)  • Matthew Clements – Computer Gaming Technology 1st year Course Rep (Cambridge)                |        |

## 18.2 Appointment of Student Trustees

The Union has recently appointed two new student trustees to the trustee board which oversees everything concerning the Union. Darryl Sharpe (DS) and Kirran Khan (KK) were successful, both KK and DS introduced themselves. LR asked the voting members of the committee if they approved of the appointment. The decision was ratified.

### 19 Items for discussion

#### 19.1 Democracy Review: Bye Law Amendments

#### Bye Law 11

The Union is proposing some changes to reform our representation and introduce a multi-portfolio model with full-time officers sharing a number of responsibilities and students represented by faculty or faculties.

To streamline our part-time officer roles to only those focusing on representing oppressed and minority groups; instead creating volunteering opportunities and supporting student led projects and societies to meet needs identified through other roles.

Students raised concerns that if the Activities Officer role is removed the student opportunities co-ordinators may be overworked and not as representative as staff members must remain neutral. The committee members will not have a single officer to raise any queries or issues with which could lead to confusion.

GA clarified that the student opportunities co-ordinators will be the first point of call for administration and the officer team will support clubs and societies in a promotional capacity. All officers will be accountable for clubs and societies.

JS challenged the grant pot, if it is split between student representatives and clubs and societies there is a possibility that this will reduce funds available for committees.

#### Bye Law 2

To split our executive committee into two bodies; the Faculty Voice Committee and Liberation, Equality and Diversity and Inclusion Committee, each with a clearer role remit and responsibilities.

No queries raised.

#### Bye Law 4

To alter the timing of the election and term of office for Faculty reps.

Michael Steel (TAGS Committee member) raised a concern that this may create more strain on Union staff to train more reps at the same time.

GA responded that it will make training more effective as reps will have longer to settle into their roles and group training will easier to organise.

#### Bye Law 9

To introduce new sub-committees to the Board of Trustees.

No queries raised.

The voting for these changes will done on our website voting will open at 7.30pm after the meeting finishes, voting will be open for 24 hours.

#### 20 Permanent items

## 20.1 Executive Officers Update

#### GA

- Team: Let's be Honest Campaign
- ARU Ran Guarantor Scheme
- Open Access
- #TEFOff

#### ΚY

- Team: Let's be Honest Campaign
- Gender Neutral Toilets Policy
- Safer Taxi's Scheme
- Buddy Scheme
- Disability Audit

#### JS

- Team: Let's be Honest Campaign
- Keep Wednesday Afternoons Free
- Gym Women's Friendly Hour
- Up Your Grants
- Save our Space

#### PW

- Team: Let's be Honest Campaign
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Global Unity
- Employability Skills

#### LR

- Team: Let's be Honest Campaign
- Representation in Sport
- Visibility Campaign
- Space

For more detail see the officers' individual reports saved with the minutes.

#### 20.2 Executive Committee Update

Most of the roles have been filled, the following positions are still available: BME (Cambridge & Peterborough), Trans (Chelmsford), Welfare Campaigns (Chelmsford), Communications (Peterborough), Disabled (Peterborough), Environment and Community (Peterborough), International (Peterborough), LGBT+ (Peterborough).

In the last Executive Committee meeting the budget was discussed for full time officers and rep campaigns. It was decided that a request for under £40 will be signed off by the Chair (LR) and over £40 will be taken to the committee to be signed off.

Officers have conducted one-to-one meetings with almost all the reps on the

committee to explain the changes to the Bye-Laws to give them a wider understanding of the impact of the changes if they are passed and can make an informed vote today.

# 20.3 Policy Update

Four policies were introduced to the meeting to be considered by the members.

- Increased Equality for Vegan Students Sarah Gradidge (SG)
- Keep Wednesday Afternoons Free (KWAF) JS
- Up your Grants JS
- ARU Students' Union Against NUS Cuts KY

Please see the policy briefs attached to the minutes for further details.

The voting for these policies will done on our website voting will open at 7.30pm after the meeting finishes, voting will be open for 24 hours.

# 21 Any other business

# 21.1 Charities for National Student Survey

LR introduced the National Student Survey which is completed by all third year undergraduate students. For each response money will be donated a charity. LR asked for the voting members to pick a charity to support for each campus.

#### Cambridge

- Cambridge Nightline
- Ormiston Families Heads Up
- Cambridgeshire Mind

#### Chelmsford

- Dementia Adventure
- Open Road
- South, East and Central Mind

#### Peterborough

Peterborough and Fenland Mind

Voting will take place after the meeting at our website.

# 22 Date and time of the next meeting

TBC