



MINUTES

Students' Union Annual Students Meeting

3pm Tuesday 3rd December 2019

QS111

In Attendance:

Chair and Deputy Chair of Executive Council: Millie Whiteford (ECC) and Andreas Pavlou (DECC)

Officers:

- Jenny Marchant – President of Education (PE)
- Kirsten Jolley – President of Wellbeing and Diversity
- Tarry Bowen – BAME Students Officer (BAME)
- Kalen Reid – LGBTQ+ Students Officer (LGBTQ+)
- Catherine Rowan – International Students Officer (INT)
- Adam Dickson – Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer (PGM)
- Holly Hinchley - Chair of Humanities, Religion & Philosophy (HRP)
- Raana Jefferson - Chair of Art and Design (AD)
- Ella Langston – Chair of Science and Technology (ST)
- Jamie Andrews – Chair of Performance and Media Production (PMP)

The following sent their apologies:

- Tim Holmes (President of the Student Union)
- Evie Clowes (Chair of York Business School)
- Laura Grove (Chair of languages and Linguistics)
- Hannah Jefferies (Chair of psychological and social sciences)
- James Allanson (Disabled Students' Officer)

Staff:



- Donna Smith – CEO
- Paul Murtough – Student Opportunities Manager (SOM)
- Zaki Kaf Al-Ghazal – Student Voice Coordinator (SVC)
- Saffron Rose – Societies and Volunteering Coordinator (SocVC)
- Harriet Stainton – Senior Marketing and Communications Coordinator (SMCC)
- Ryan Newsam – Communications Assistant (CA)
- Bradley Ford – Bar and Events Coordinator (BE)
- Dan Grayson – Information and Administration Assistant (IAA)

The meeting was not quorate as only 41 individuals were in attendance though this had no material impact on the meeting as there were no decisions to be made.

1. Welcome and Introduction

ECC and DECC introduced the AGM and welcomes attendees to the meeting.

2. To receive any items for Any Other Business

No items noted.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (6th December 2018)

Minutes were noted and accepted.

4. Matters Arising

No matters arising

Section A: Items to note

5. YSJSU Affiliations

CEO updated the membership on affiliations. The Union of Jewish Students (UJS), Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF) and the African and Caribbean Society (ACS) were missing.

6. Financial Accounts summary & Trustee Report



The financial review resulted in a positive audit report. The Student Union gross income totalled £1,234,747. It was stated that the SU is in a deficit position due to the SUS pension fund (this is the only liability).

7. Exec Committee Reports

a. Sabbatical Officers (verbal)

PSU was not in attendance but sent in written report to detail the work he had done since July. PE and PWD were in attendance and their officer reports were noted and accepted by the membership as was PSU's.

b. Liberation Officers (Verbal)

LGBTQ+, BAME, INT and PGM all offered short verbal updates about their activities during the year. These were accepted by the membership.

c. Chairs of School (verbal)

The Chair of PMP, ADC, HRP and STC updated the membership verbally about their activities during the year so far. The Chair of YBS submitted a verbal report which was accepted.

8. University Updates

It was noted that the President of the SU was not in attendance but was involved in the recruitment of a new Vice Chancellor and would update the student body in due course.

9. Shape the future of the SU

The following questions were posed and a brief summary of the answers offered are below.

What does the SU mean to you?

- A welcome place, accessible to everyone
- A place for students to come together as a community
- A place to meet people and engage with sports and societies
- A place to represent students and to feel safe and comfortable
- A safe place to get support and advice if needed
- A place to meet your pals and have a good time



- I've never engaged with it
- A place to go for a sense of community, representation and help and one that also provides entertainment
- An attempt at uniting the students whilst still leaving some groups unrepresented

What makes you happiest about being a student?

- Finding independence
- Involvement with sport
- Having friends and feeling part of a community
- Being involved, keeping busy and meeting new people
- There are some nice people on my course
- Having more time to figure yourself out before choosing a field of employment
- Better prospect of getting a job

What worries you most about being a student?

- Money and debt (these were repeated various times)
- Brexit
- The state of the outside world
- Racism
- Failing (repeated various times)
- Life after university
- Burn out through extra-curricular commitments
- That it is a waste of time and time could be spent working instead or undertaking of an apprenticeship

What do you think the university should focus on over the next 3 years?

- Opening up more courses such as STEM
- Getting the creative centre built
- Equality and full representation (mentioned on numerous occasions)



- Improving the student journey from start to finish. Stop treating students like customers and start treating them like individuals.
- Study and social space
- Improving existing resources instead of spending money on new things

What do you think the Students' Union should focus on over the next 3 years?

- Inclusivity
- Activities for non-drinkers
- Be more engaging on the weekend
- More accessible and less barriers to entry (physically and monetary)
- Cheaper bar
- Greater appreciation for the volunteers who give up their time for the Student Union
- More support for sports and societies
- Make the changes enacted by the SU clearer to the general student population
- More fun events like a petting zoo or sports day
- Expanding and offering more job opportunities
- Improved comms and publicity about non-alcoholic events

What is the best thing about the Students' Union?

- It is accessible and reliable
- Coffee
- Cheap bar
- Looks well maintained
- The staff
- Pound a pint
- Welcoming and fun
- Helps you make friends
- Friendly atmosphere

What would you change about the Students' Union?

- It should be a bigger space
- The website
- Make it more approachable as some students are scared of going in there



- More plants
- Showing where the money goes

Section B: Open discussion

10. Student Council proposal

SVC gave a quick overview of the proposed Student Council structure from 2020/2021 onwards for the benefit of the wider membership. Student Council will change in a number of significant ways. Firstly, the three presidents as trustees will no longer be members of the Council and will be in attendance only. This will help simplify and streamline their roles in the unlikely event that policy passed at Council is overturned by the Trustee Board (which whilst unlikely is possible). This extends to a student trustee wanting to run be a Council member which will no longer be permissible. This also means that Student Council is essentially a scrutiny body for the presidents and the current Scrutiny Panel will be officially dissolved. Student Council's membership will be opened up with sports and societies having representatives on there as well as open spaces. The Chair of Student Council will become an elected position as well.

11. Any Other Business

No other business was noted.

12. Elections 2020

SOM noted that the election timeline was launched and that suggest a friend would open later on in the day. Potential candidates were free to register their formal interest and campaign rules have come into place.