



**YORK ST JOHN
STUDENTS' UNION**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL
Thursday 25 November 2021 at 17:00, HG/136 and via Zoom**

For the purpose of the meeting, Councillors will be recognised in abbreviated form:

Present: Katy Harris (CSC) (Chair of Student Council) (Chair); Charley Benson (DCSC) (Deputy Chair of Student Council) (Deputy Chair); Millie Whiteford (ELP) (Chair of Education, Language and Psychology); Akash Jain (PG) (Postgraduate Officer); Stui Smith (MO) (Mature Officer); Matthew Rees (DO) (Disabilities Officer); Josh Watts (LGBTQ+) (LGBTQ+ Officer); Imogen Walker (WO) (Women's Officer).

In Attendance: Jamie Andrews (PSU) (President of the Students' Union); Aimee Yeoman (PED) (President of Education); Chris Smith (PWD) (President of Wellbeing & Diversity); Paul Murtough (SOM) (Student Opportunities Manager); Suzanne Dickinson (EESOM) (Employer Engagement and Student Opportunities Manager); Grace Pheasey (GDA) (Governance and Democracy Assistant) (Clerk); Jessica Baxter (SSGI) (Student Success Graduate Intern)

1. Welcome and Introduction

CSC welcomed everyone to the first Student Council Meeting of the 21/22 academic year and gave the opportunity for attendees to introduce themselves.

To receive apologies for absence

Kalen Reid (BAME Officer)
Jemma Booth (Chair of Arts)
Amy Watson (Non-portfolio Student Representative)

Absent without Apologies

Vinoth Vinoth (International Students' Officer)
Abid Rahman (London Officer)
Isabella Larkum (Chair of Science, Technology and Health)
George Blaikie (Chair of York Business School)
Sadia Ali (Chair of School of Humanities)

2. & 3. Minutes of 29 April 2021 and Matters Arising – SC/2122/01/01

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 April 2021 were **approved**.

4. Lapsed Policy: ECO6 Equal Opportunities Policy – SC/2122/01/02

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no vote on Item 4 took place. PWD informed Student Council that updates to ECO6: Equal Opportunities Policy have been on-going and can be found on the Students Unions website.

5. Lapsed Policy: ECO7 BAME Representation – SC/2122/01/03

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 5 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Lapsed Policy, ECO7 BAME Representation appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in March 2022. The Student Council agreed to this variation.

6. Lapsed Policy: ECO8 Diversity in the Library – SC/2122/01/04

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 6 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Lapsed Policy, Policy ECO8 Diversity in the Library appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in March 2022. The Student Council agreed to this variation.

7. Lapsed Policy: EC09 Broad Curricula – SC/2122/01/05

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 7 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Lapsed Policy, Policy EC09 Broad Curricula appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in March 2022. The Student Council agreed to this variation.

8. Lapsed Policy: EC10 Chaplaincy (Minor Religions) – SC/2122/01/06

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 8 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Lapsed Policy, Policy EC10: Chaplaincy (Minor Religions) appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in March 2022. The Student Council agreed to this variation.

9. Lapsed Policy: EC11 Timetabling – SC/2122/01/07

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 9 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Lapsed Policy, Policy EC11: Timetabling appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in March 2022. The Student Council agreed to this variation.

10. Lapsed Policy: EC12 Wellbeing Provisions and Services – SC/2122/01/08

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, vote on Item 10 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Lapsed Policy, Policy EC12: Wellbeing Provisions and Services appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in March 2022. The Student Council agreed to this variation.

11. Lapsed Policy: EC13 Cost of Study – SC/2122/01/09

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 11 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Lapsed Policy, Policy EC13 Cost of Study appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in March 2022. The Student Council agreed to this variation.

12. Lapsed Policy: EC14 Weekend Wellbeing – SC/2122/01/10

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 12 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Lapsed Policy, Policy EC14: Weekend Wellbeing appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in March 2022. The Student Council agreed to this variation.

13. Lapsed Policy: EC15 Residence Security – SC/2122/01/11

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 13 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Lapsed Policy, Policy EC15: Residence Security appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in March 2022. The Student Council agreed to this variation.

14. Lapsed Policy: EC16 Food and Catering Outlets – SC/2122/01/12

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 14 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Lapsed Policy, Policy EC16: Food and Catering Outlets appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in March 2022. The Student Council agreed to this variation.

15. Previous Motions: Equity in Education – SC/2122/01/13

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 15 took place. SOM recommended that the Previous Motion, Equity in Education appear on the agenda of the Annual Students' Members on 02 December 2021. The Chair concurred, the Student Council agreed to this variation.

16. Previous Motions: Social Anxiety Within Lectures – SC/2122/01/13

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 16 took place. SOM recommended that the Previous Social Anxiety Within Lectures appear on the agenda of the Annual Students' Members on 02 December 2021. The Chair concurred, the Student Council agreed to this variation.

17. Previous Motions: More Accessible Counselling – SC/2122/01/13

The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently, no discussion or vote on Item 17 took place. SOM recommended that the Previous Motion Equity in Education appear on the agenda of the Annual Students' Members on 02 December 2021. The Chair concurred, the Student Council agreed to this variation.

18. Sabbatical Officer Update: Verbal

The Sabbatical Officers gave updates on their work this Semester. The Student Council was given the opportunity to question the Sabbatical Officers.

PWD gave an update on Campaigns such as Stop Spiking, Plan Safe Drink Safe and plans for Sexual Violence Awareness for 2022. PWD gave updates on equality, diversity and inclusion projects at the Students' Union, noting to the increase in gender-neutral toilets, trans inclusive awareness training, proposal for a Stonewall membership and the on-going work on the Race Equality Charter with the University. PWD reported there are 32 BAME homes students at York St John and noted that the Students' Union is working to diversify its staff. The Students' Union have also provided over 1,000 contraceptives that are available to students.

PWD also informed Student Council of a housing guide booklet that will be available to students following the Housing Fair and Find a Housemate Event.

DO enquired about the creation of a *Trans and Non-Binary Officer*, PWD acknowledged this and welcomes this being introduced. SOM noted this proposal could be added to the Annual Students' Members Meeting to be voted on if the creation of this role was imperative. PWD gave notice that the BAME Officer would like to make amendments to this title.

PED gave an update on the Academic Representation System, Education Zone and the pilot Peer Mentoring Scheme. PED informed the Student Council that the Students' Union are working on an Advice Campaign for 2022 alongside Advice Coordinator Christopher Prior. PED is the Co-Chair of Strategic Survey Steering Group with the University to re-structure the frequency of student surveys as part of the Student Partnership Plus approach. PED gave updates on the Subject Spotlight event in collaboration with the Library for students to learn from diverse writers, noting this is on-going work that is reflected in Lapsed Policies ECO8 and ECO9.

ACTION: PED to send the Education Zone Report to Part-Time Officer's.

PSU gave an update on Graduation ceremonies, the planned Buddy System and Student Media Group. PSU reported that proposed redevelopments of Foss Sports Hall is to go ahead without any added cost for members. During the month on November the Students' Union hosted a Karaoke and Quiz event in support of Movember, PSU reported that £2,000 has been raised for the cause.

CSC asked about the work being done in the wider community of York in regard to spiking. PSU noted the University is in communication with the University of York to address the student population in the City. PWD added that the University of York has a variety of resources to use and York St John has the means of collecting data. PG enquired about the initiatives from nightclubs for the care of students, PWD added that York Council is reviewing licences for provisions of door staff.

CSC asked the Student Council if there is anything that can be implemented to support COVID-19 anxieties. ELP noted the wearing of face masks by staff influence students also wearing them. WO noted that the posters of mask wearing are an encouragement for wearing face coverings.

19. Open Questions: Verbal

The Student Council was given the opportunity to ask any further questions. WO enquired about the work being done on the issue of spiking. PWD reported that the Students' Union is providing drink toppers and foils for students to use. PWD also noted there are collaborative discussions with the City of York Council to have a coordinated messaging on the duty of care of students. PWD added there are plans to create a reporting forum on the Students' Union website for students to report spiking, harassment incidents and unsafe streets within the city so that Police can increase footfall, patrol routes and lobby the Council.

Any Other Business

EESOM led a verbal discussion to the Student Council to ask what employer's students would like to see on Campus and from the University's Careers events. ESSOM opened the floor for responses.

PSU and PWD asked if the events were run on a Wednesday to notify that some students may be participating in sporting fixtures competitions. EESOM enquired about the total number of student memberships for Sports and Societies. SOM reported there are 1,230 student members across all year groups. PWD acknowledged the low engagement from students by referring to the Sabbatical Officers Zone attendance being between 4 to 29 students.

DCSC noted that after online learning and teaching, some students may have limited awareness about the career events on Campus, DO concurred. This led to a discussion about anxieties surrounding COVID-19, ELP noted that some students may only attend campus for lectures, LGBTQ+ concurred about COVID anxieties. EESOM acknowledged this and noted that the events delivered by companies vary in their delivery, both in-person and virtually. ELP enquired if the Job Fair was available online. ESSOM replied that the jobs are listed online on the Launchpad website, but the Job Fair was not held virtually.

PED added that some students may not engage with the Career's service until third year, acknowledging that exposure to career opportunities should be integrated throughout the degree course. WO also raised that students may be catching up on work during reading week after being at social events. MO added that some students may be adapting to the workload and practice of time management.

PG raised the discussion on Postgraduate career opportunities and tailored events for Postgraduate, International and MBA students, noting to the use of the London Campus and Student Circus. ESSOM acknowledged there are limitations for international students and noted that there can be events for Postgraduates specifically. ESSOM asked the Student Council if there was an employer that students would like to see on Campus. PSU used examples of BBC and ITV that are highlight on some Media courses. PSU also noted that the perception of employers may restrict student interest, referencing Aldi and McDonald's as places to perhaps have a stigma. This led to a discussion about past experiences and the need for fun experiences in the job market. ESSOM acknowledged this and reported that a future event with the Army will include team building exercises on Campus.

ELP noted that student preferences are reflective of their School and programme, WO concurred and suggested this should be informed by the Head of School to highlight to students what opportunities can be found through their programme of study. ESSOM acknowledged this and highlighted that the career events can be an opportunity for curiosity for students.

MO suggested that some students might have pre-existing perceptions of jobs from their previous experience's. ESSOM noted that the Part-Time Job Fair was an opportunity to give students awareness of the opportunities available.

PSU noted that job satisfaction could be something that students are looking for and that the career events for students could showcase this. PSU noted that the Pandemic has highlighted jobs should fulfill a person's passion and interest. SSGI acknowledged this and added that some students may want to try something different.

ELP asked if the option of remote working was promoted from Launchpad's current job opportunities, noting that for the School of Education, Language and Psychology has the opportunity for TESOL tutoring. ESSOM noted that the majority of part-time work are in-person work to reflect the transition back to working in the workplace.

ACTION: CSC is to notify ESSOM of any updates.

DRAFT

Meeting closed at 18:15

Date of next meeting: 27 March 2022

Signed _____ (Chair) Date _____