

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES ZONE

## | MINUTES



Student Activities Zone  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 4pm  
DG/017

### Members in attendance:

8 individuals were in attendance

### Chair:

Jamie Andrews, (President of the Students' Union) (PSU)

### Students' Union Officers/Staff:

Chris Smith, (President of Wellbeing and Diversity) (PWD)

Boawe Rankin-Carr – (BRC) (Sports Coordinator)

Paul Murtough – (PM) (Student Opportunities Manager)

Christopher Prior – (CP) (Advice Coordinator)

Grace Pheasey – (Governance and Democracy Assistant)

### Apologies received:

None recorded.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions:

PSU convened the meeting and welcomed participants to the first Student Activities Zone of the 21/22 Academic Year. There were 8 attendees in person and 4 online, a total of 12 participants. This zone was convened to discuss the suitability and functionality of the spaces allocated for student activities.

### Section A: Items for Discussion:

A Mentimeter Survey was designed by PSU to ask a set of questions for the participants. The questions and answers are as follows:

#### 1. What Sport/ Society/ Activity do you take part in?

Majority of participants take part in Sport activities. This varied from Badminton, Basketball, Mountaineering, Cheerleading and Powerlifting. Musical Production, Singing and Law Societies were also named.

#### 2. What space(s) /facility do you use for your activity?

Mixed responses from participants. For Sport, Foss Sports Hall was a popular facility, along with Haxby Road. External facilities were Red Goat Climbing and York Railway Institute. For Societies, Temple Hall, Holgate and Skell were named.

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### **3. To what extent do you agree with this statement: The spaces we are allocated for our activity are suitable and fit for purpose.**

Three participants strongly agreed with the statement, five participants somewhat agreed. One participant strongly disagreed and three somewhat disagreed with the statement.

### **4. Please elaborate on any concerns related to your allocated spaces/facilities**

*"Floor is very slippery in Foss Sports Hall"*

*"Failed wall inspection, lack of training venue"*

*"Foss not being available soon"*

*"Never in the same room, most of the spaces we are allocated mean we have to spend a small portion of the night setting up"*

*"Lines of the court"*

*"Poor lines"*

*"Not going to have training spaces by Semester 2, the Uni and SU haven't elaborated on how training times will be affected"*

*"Temple Hall often has seats left out on main floor which we need to move to rehearse. When Temple Hall is booked and we are given alternative it is rarely acceptable, i.e. Fountains Lecture Theatre which gave a 2m strip of unusable space"*

*"Development can't do any sort of stunts or tumbling in Temple Hall as we don't have mats"*

*"Do not have a permanent space to train"*

*"Temple Hall isn't suitable for development, especially when the chairs are still left out as it means that we have to spend time out of the session moving them"*

*"Unable to get equipment out of our locker in Foss cupboard – the cupboard is untidy and full of other equipment. Failed wall inspection preventing us using our wall in Foss, we need an alternative venue"*

PSU noted the opening of the Creative Centre will relieve pressures on Societies who have been provided alternative room facilities. This led to a discussion on timetables, PM notified

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Societies that room bookings for Semester 2 will be reflective of the timetable which should see the transition of classes being held in the Creative Centre. Some participants recalled of Temple Hall still having chairs out.

PSU gave updates on the University's proposal of the development of Foss Sports Hall. PSU noted that the University are confident they can move Sport teams to Haxby with no financial implication to club membership. PSU also notified participants he is in regular attendance of meetings with the University Governing Bodies.

**5. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: Our activity is NOT hindered by the space we are allocated.**

Six participants somewhat agreed with the statement and five somewhat disagreed. Only one participant strongly disagreed with the statement. None of the participants strongly agreed.

**6. Please elaborate on any concerns:**

*"Failed wall inspection, lack of training venue"*

*"No basketball hoops at Haxby"*

*"We've received very little information about when we will have to move out of Foss"*

*"University/Foss is centrally located for all student housing as well as accommodation. Moving to Haxby will reduce training times and also more people will have to commute. Walking down Haxby late night – dangerous for members"*

*"Potentially the last year Badminton is one of the biggest clubs"*

*"Development sessions are massively hindered"*

*"Our space we should have (Foss) we have concerns about the building works happening next term"*

*"Would be good to be able to get access to the Tech box in Temple Hall so we can sort out lighting and sound before our performances"*

*"Not being given a room until the last minute so some members don't show up or are in the wrong place, so we waste time at the start of sessions making sure everyone is there"*

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PSU acknowledged the regular room changes and outlined that this is due to a cross over with the University booking system and the Students' Union timetable bookings. PSU assured participants of a transparent communication of the Foss Sports Hall developments, which has a proposed start date of the end of January / early February.

### **7. How do you get to your allocated space/facility?**

All twelve participants walk to get to their allocated spaces. Majority of participants are based on campus for their activities.

### **b) If you answered "Other" please expand:**

N/A

### **8. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: I feel safe making my way to my allocated space/activity?**

Six participants strongly agreed with the statement and two somewhat agreed. Three participants somewhat disagreed, none of the participants strongly disagreed.

### **9. What can be done to make you feel safer?**

*"It is a long walk and some of our sessions are in the evening."*

*"More streetlights by the hospital as it's getting darker sooner it can feel quite unsafe walking home"*

*"I feel relatively safe as it's a short walk to Foss through a fairly well-lit campus"*

*"Walking back from Haxby Road into York is not safe and the bus isn't an option for everyone as people want to go in other directions than campus"*

*"I feel safe"*

*"There is an option for the bus so that is somewhat safer"*

*"Have Foss unlocked before we arrive at our time slots, we have to Foss and it's been locked. Would rather not wait outside in the dark while we get someone to unlock it"*

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### SECTION B: Other Items for Discussion

PSU opened the floor for general questions from participants. These were as follows:

#### ***“Has the University got any concrete plans for redevelopment of Foss Sports Hall?”***

- PSU updated participants that the development of Foss Sports Hall is still awaiting final approval.
- PSU stated that the Governing Body has acknowledged that the move from Foss Sports Hall will have no financial implications for members.

#### ***“What is the possibility of booking any room in the Creative Centre?”***

- PSU noted there will be a timetable booking system for the Creative Centre similar to the one for campus facilities.
- PSU outlined that the auditorium in the Creative Arts Centre is due to open on 24<sup>th</sup> November.

#### ***“What activity from the Students’ Union will be able to use the Creative Centre?”***

- This discussion was raised by a Musical Theatre participant and the possibility of using Temple Hall for future performances. PSU notified participants that with the opening of the Creative Arts Centre, Temple Hall should become more readily available once the University take lectures out of this space.
- PSU outlined that there is no designated space currently given to the new Creative Centre and that room bookings will soon be available for Sports and Societies.

#### ***“The move to Haxby Road might affect our membership numbers and payments”***

- PSU noted that the Governing Body has acknowledged that the move from Foss Sports Hall will have no financial implications for members.

### Section C: Any other Business

None.