



**YORK ST JOHN  
STUDENTS' UNION**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL  
Thursday 29 April 2021 at 16:00 via Zoom**

**Present:** Siya Varma (CSC) (Chair of Student Council) (Chair); Emily Balmer (LGBTQ+) (LGBTQ+ Students' Officer); Callum Campbell (H&I) (Societies, Hobbies & Interests); Kalen Reid (BAME) (BAME Students' Officer); Christian Smith (PGM) (Postgraduate & Mature Students' Officer); Marissa St Ange (International Students' Officer); Aimee Yeoman (ART) (Chair of School of Arts)

**In Attendance:** Jamie Andrews (PSU) (President of the Students' Union); Dan Grayson (GIA) (Governance & Information Assistant) (Clerk); Zaki Kaf Al-Ghazal (ARC) (Advice & Representation Coordinator); Paul Murtough (SOM) (Student Opportunities Manager)

*Clerk's Note: The Student Council was not quorate, and as such, no debate or votes took place on Items 4-7.*

#### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

CSC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **To receive apologies for absence**

Dominic Bramley (Chair of School of Humanities)  
Heather Graham (Chair of York Business School)  
Jane Nesworthy (Chair of Science, Technology & Health)  
Emma Palmer (President of Wellbeing & Diversity)  
Donna Smith (Chief Executive Officer)  
Jess Thompson (Women's Officer)  
Millie Whiteford (Chair of School of Education, Language & Psychology)

#### **Absent without Apologies**

Kai Aspinall (DIS) (Disabled Students' Officer)  
Charlie Mills (C&F) (Societies, Culture & Faith)  
Sau Wu (London Campus Officer)

#### **2. & 3. Minutes of 18 March 2021 and Matters Arising – SC/2021/04/01**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 March 2021 were **approved**.

#### **4. Motion: Equity in Education**

*The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently no debate or vote on Item 4 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Motion entitled Equity in Education appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in November 2021. The Student Council agreed to this variation.*

#### **5. Motion: Social Anxiety Within Lectures**

*The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently no debate or vote on Item 5 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Motion entitled Social Anxiety Within Lectures appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in November 2021. The Student Council agreed to this variation.*

#### **6. Motion: More Accessible Counselling**

*The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently no debate or vote on Item 6 took place. The Chair gave directions that the Motion entitled More Accessible Counselling appear on the Student Council's agenda for its next meeting in November 2021. The Student Council agreed to this variation.*

#### **7. Honorary Life Membership**

*The Student Council was not quorate, and consequently no debate or vote on Item 7 took place. The Chair gave directions that the vote on admittance to Honorary Life Membership be deferred until the Student Council next considers admittance to Honorary Life Membership in 2021-2.*

#### **8. Questions to the Sabbatical Officers**

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

PSU gave an update on graduation arrangements, the planned buddy system, and the continuation of student support throughout the pandemic. PSU reported that the Students' Union meets regularly with the University Executive Board to discuss pressing issues.

#### **9. NUS Conference Update**

The Student Council received an update on the NUS Conference from the Students' Union's NUS Delegation.

#### **10. COVID-19 Update**

SOM gave an update on how COVID-19 is affecting the University and the Students' Union and how the Students' Union is responding to the effects.

The Students' Union building is set to reopen for Info Point from 17 May for hours to be advertised. The bar and coffee lounge will not be reopening. The Students' Union aims to reopen fully in September. SOM is continuing to work with YSJ Active on provisions for sport for the remainder of the term. There is no plan to run a Summer Archies' Day.

#### **Any Other Business**

The Student Council was asked if there were any other items of business to discuss not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

#### Feedback on the Year

CSC gave the Student Council opportunity to provide any additional feedback on the year.

ART thanked ZKA for facilitating electronic drop-in sessions for the School of Arts.

BAME informed the Student Council that the Chaplaincy will be observing a memorial for the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd on 28 May.

SOM informed the Student Council that BUCS are participating in an FA initiative not posting on their social media to combat racism and discrimination in sport. The Student Council noted that much more can be done to combat racism in sport than refraining from posting on social media.

#### Student Trustee Role

GIA informed the Student Council that the Trustee Board is seeking to appoint two Student Trustees for a term of one year beginning on 01 July 2021. The application pack will be posted on the Students' Union's website on Tuesday 04 May.

#### Mega-Zone on Reward and Recognition

ARC and PSU informed the Student Council of the combined Zone looking at Reward and Recognition. It will take place at 4 p.m. on Tuesday 04 May on Zoom. The Zone will be asked to explore how student volunteers, student employees and researchers, and students who manage to achieve substantive accomplishments during the year are recognized and rewarded by the Students' Union and the University.

**Meeting closed at 16:50**  
Date of next meeting: TBC

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)      Date \_\_\_\_\_