



Executive Council
Thursday 8th November 2018
RW006

Chair:

Dan Grayson (CEC)

Council members:

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

George Coombs: President of the Students' Union (PRES)

Steph Foxton: President of Education (POE)

Amy Deveney: Chair of Art, Design and Computer Science (ADC)

Hannah Scott: Chair of Education (EDU)

Millan Tankaria: Chair of Health Sciences (HSC)

Raphie Piquiot: Chair of Psychological and Social Sciences (PSS)

Abi Cranswick: Chair of Sport (SPO)

Skye Pickorer: Chair of York Business School (YBS)

Tene Dowling: BAME Officer (BAME)

Emma Sayce: Disabilities Officer (DIS)

Evan Mortimer: LGBTQ+ Officer (LGBTQ+)

In attendance:

Thomas Bowes: Deputy Chair of Executive Council

Paul Murtough: Student Voice Coordinator

Apologies:

Olivia Bowers: President of Wellbeing and Diversity

Katie Goodacre: Mature/Postgraduate Officer

Jenny Marchant: Chair of Humanities, Religion and Philosophy

Laura Gove: Chair of Languages and Linguistics

Anna Gunby: Chair of Performance and Media Production

Welcome and Introductions:

CEC invited members of the Council to introduce themselves, including title and preferred pronoun

Declarations of Interest:

CEC requested that each member of the Council define any potential areas of interest which may impede their abilities to make objective opinions inside of the Council.

All members completed the required forms and presented them to CEC.

Any Other Business:

CEC asked for recommendations for A.O.B from members of the Council.

PRES brought forward a point to note on the current financial position of the National Union of Students (NUS)



1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Noting that only four of the current Council members were present in April 2018, CEC asked that they review the minutes, suggesting any amendments.

POE requested a slight amendment for consistency, referencing her position as 'DLOS' (Deputy Leader of Senate) at the previous meeting.

2. Matters Arising

CEC called for Council to review the matters arising from the final Senate meeting of 2017/18

a. Feedback Policy

POE stated that there was a policy in place which has since been reviewed and has now been divided into several procedures which act under the banner of 'Principles of Feedback'.

Action: POE to distribute the Principle of Feedback to members of the Council

3. Items for Decision

CEC called the Council to discuss all matters for decision.

a. Schedule of Business

CEC put a call to the members to approve the schedule, whilst also requesting for any additions/amendments.

LGBTQ+ requested and addition for reports from conferences attended by officers.

CEC stated that reference to any attended conferences could be noted in the Officer Reports submitted to Council, but there can be an additional agenda item, if required.

POE suggested that 'Transition of Officers' be referred to 'Transition to Council' for those elected in the annual cycle.

PRES requested further information as to what 'Transition to Officers' specifically means, what happens?

CEC stated that it was for a period of transfer and for information exchange so that they become accustomed to proceedings.

POE suggested this is useful as a mandate to ensure a handover is carried out from the current officers.

BAME asked if the item could be additional to the second meeting as well as the final.



CEC it may be better placed after the annual election cycle.

PRES further requested that 'February Elections' be changed to 'All elections' or 'Elections' as, in the instance a position is not filled we will then require a by-election.

POE seconded this as there is discussion of changes to the current university structure, STEM being used as an example.

SVC also added in, as an operational matter 'Honorary Life Membership' for the penultimate and final meetings of the year.

CEC called for a vote to approve the Schedule of Business, noting all suggest amendments.

For: 11

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

The Schedule of Business was approved.

Action: CEC to review the schedule and make the required amendments

b. Lapsed Policies

CEC noted that the vote for this item will be to 're-instate' the policies

S52: Braille

CEC noted the response from the PWD, in her absence. The full response can be seen in the papers of the meeting.

POE felt that the policy should be reinstated to ensure the work is continued as with each new officer team priorities change and there is still a significant amount of work to be done.

PSS requested clarification as to whether the motion was only applicable to the Union or the entire University as it is a matter that is relevant to the university as a whole.

CEC noted that it held implications for the whole of the institution.

EDU stated that there is a significant lack of braille on campus and this motion is an important step to ensure action is taken.

CEC noted no other discussion was taken and called for a vote to re-instate

For: 11

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion is reinstated



S53: Resources, Resources, Resources

POE presented the members with a verbal report on the current status of the motion and why it should be re-instated, with amendments. Therefore, POE proposed Procedural Motion 'E' – to re-write/amend the motion as a specified point in the meeting.

CEC therefore called for a vote for the Procedural Motion to be heard

For this vote POE abstained due to a conflict of interest.

For: 10
Against:0
Abstain:1

The vote to hear the Procedural Motion was passed.

POE proposed that there are a number of additional support teams which are implicit within the motion such as TEL (Technology Enhanced Learning), Assistive Technology Team, Learning and Teaching Team and the Academic Liaison Librarians. All of these areas should be explicit in the mandate for future officers to work with and ensure that the motion remains at the forefront of the universities interests as priorities may change going forward.

BAME asked if the TEL team are responsible for the changes to Moodle.

POE responded, stating they are and that the new look has been highlighted as inaccessible to read for some of the student population. The reason behind the change is due to the time elapsed from the previous model which was over a decade old. However, a change will occur in the new year.

LGBTQ+ stated that the motion should be re-instated to ensure sufficient timings and accessibility of books etc.

EDU felt that as the motion states, staff do not currently use Moodle to its full capacity and with the introduction of assistive learning features such as 'Lecture Capture' it would be beneficial to continue to policy.

BAME stated that there are limitations with the amount of resources, including those online.

PSS agreed, noting that E-Journals often only allow up to 50 students to access them at a given time.

YBS noted that it would be better to review accessibility of E-Journals by providing more downloadable PDF options.

EDU agreed and expanded, noting that some resources also require payment which is a deterrent for students.



LGBTQ+ noted there are definite struggles surrounding the diversity of resources, but this also extends to academic staff who may be struggling to adapt to systems when newly employed – the scope of the motion should reach out for those too.

Noting no further requests to speak, CEC requested the POE propose the new amendment and its specific placement.

POE noted that the amendment should be within the mandate and reads

‘Student Council mandates that the President of Education work with the Technology Enhanced Learning, Learning and Teach, Assistive Technology and Academic Liaison Librarian teams to ensure staff are using Moodle and Virtual Learning Environments (VLE) effectively and supply students with resources in a timely and accessible manner.’

CEC called for a vote to approve the amendment.

For: 10
Against:0
Abstain:1

The amendment was approved.

CEC then called for a vote to reinstate the policy with amendments.

For: 10
Against:0
Abstain:1

The policy is reinstated

S54: SW5

In the absence of the PWD, CEC provided Council members with her response to the motion.

It was highlighted that WellU is now the programme in place of SW5

BAME asked what was involved with WellU as there has not been much public facing advertisement.

PRES provide an explanation as to the implementation of the programme. Noting that significant public funding for SW5 was removed but the motion mandated something to be in its place as the wellbeing of students, both physically and mentally has been highlighted as a high priority when analysing data taken from surveys such as the ‘BIG FAT SURVEY’ from 2017.

POE explained that the programmes has undergone a revision and now has a full-time intern working on developments and enhancements.

ADC highlighted a lack of understanding of the new banded system



POE responded stating that the conversation seemed to be distracting from the original motion at hand. And that she felt the motion could be lapsed as it is something which has already been achieved and is a strategic objective of the Union.

BAME stated that a programme such as this is essential in the current climate.

CEC noting no further calls for discussion requested a vote on whether the policy should be reinstated.

For: 0
Against:11
Abstain:0

The policy is lapsed

S55: Boat House

PRES discussed that after numerous discussions with the university the boat house was renewed over the summer, however further conversations may need to take place in the future as we are now into the season which will test the resilience of the building.

CEC noting no discussion called for a vote on whether the policy should be reinstated.

For: 10
Against:1
Abstain:0

The policy was reinstated

S56: Activities for All

CEC presented a response from the PWD in her absence

PRES discussed with the members that there have been a variety of events taking place in Semester 1. His manifesto relates to more events for more student groups. The motion should be reinstated to ensure it continues.

DIS felt that the motion needed to stay. Students do not feel they can always access events as they do not feel catered to.

PSS agreed stating there does not seem to be enough inclusive events for groups such as student parents, commuters etc.

SPO felt that it needed to be reinstated and asked if there was potential for DIS to be able to assist/lead the development of these events.

EDU also stated that there are no events that are also inclusive for different year groups i.e. Foundation

BAME put forward Procedural Motion 'E' to re-write/amend the motion at a specified point in the meeting.



CEC called for a vote to hear the Procedural Motion

For: 11
Against:0
Abstain:0

The procedural motion can be heard

BAME stated that feedback from other students (particularly referencing the Black History Month) seemed that it was in parts, 'mundane' and 'thrown together' and that students were disappointed.

POE asked if this had relevance to the proposal

CEC responded and felt that this seemed to be to provide context.

BAME agreed and continued stating that she felt the motion needed to be explicit and inclusive of the following:

- Ethnicity
- Age
- Race
- Gender
- Religion
- Sexuality

Additionally, the motion should be mandated to the Liberation Officers as well as the PWD.

CEC asked BAME to present the specific rewording

For the Students' Union to make sure that all their activities are inclusive of everyone, no matter of age, race, ethnicity, gender, religion or sexuality.

Senate mandates the Sabbatical Officers and Liberation Officers ensure Students' Union forms a policy which will ask staff members to adhere to this.

CEC called for a vote to approve the amendment

For: 11
Against:0
Abstain:0

The amendment was approved

CEC then call for a vote to approve the motion with amendments

For: 11
Against:0
Abstain:0

The motion was passed



S57: Sunday Night Live

PRES presented a verbal response stating that there have been better attended events and a dedicated member of student staff now works on running student events. Current volunteers have plans in place to better increase the scope of events such as Open Mic etc.

POE did not feel that the motion needed to be reinstated as it is already being done.

CEC noted no further discussion and called for a vote to reinstate the motion

For: 0

Against:11

Abstain:0

The motion is lapsed

C. Motions for change

EC01: Protest the Pallet

EDU introduced the motion stating that Pallet tables are inaccessible for some and uncomfortable/not good for posture

LGBTQ+ agreed from personal experience where they are not suitable for students who need additional materials accessible to them.

POE stated the fundamentally she agrees with the premise of the motion, however, realistically it will be difficult to remove them all and may take a long time to successfully enact.

BAME maybe look at the possibility to replace with desks.

POE highlighted this would be a detriment to student numbers in the rooms and with increasing numbers it is a concern for space.

CEC noting no other discussion called for a vote to approve the motion

For: 7

Against:0

Abstain:4

Motion passed

EC02: More milk, less money

EDU introduced the motion stating that all milk can be deemed as a dietary requirement rather than a choice.

CEC noted that PWD had a response from catering which stated that Coconut and Soya are now free, and an introductory charge was placed on Almond milk which may change dependant on demand.

PSS stated that there are also environmental impacts of using dairy milk, and also milks such as Coconut and Almond still contain allergens so the 'Oat' should also be considered as the best alternative method.



LGBTQ+ the cost does add up on student budgets and 40p can be a severe dent to the finances.

BAME reiterated the points made from personal experiences.

CEC noting no other discussion called for vote to approve the motion.

For: 10

Against:0

Abstain:1

The motion was passed

EC03: Push the button, fix them first

EDU introduced the motion stating that disabled access buttons on campus do not always work and should be checked regularly

POE felt that this was a straightforward motion which did not really need any clarification.

DIS stated that this issue had been raised previously in disability forums.

Noting no further discussion CEC called for a vote to approve the motion.

For: 10

Against:0

Abstain:1

The motion passed

EC04: Silence in the Library

PSS spoke for the motion stating that the Library is often used as a social space on the ground floor, yet the silent floor is equally as uncomfortable.

POE provided clarification that the Fountains is a learning centre and not specified as a library as it caters to different learning styles. The motion itself should therefore refer to the issue of access and this would be the stance when taking it forward to the university.

BAME stated that from personal experience there is no specific area to cater for students with learning disabilities, including those with sensory issues.

LGBTQ+ agreed with the statement.

SPO stated that whilst she agreed with the concept there needs to be a realistic approach when considering what is being imposed and that expectations need to be managed.

ADC – it would be beneficial to eliminate the social aspect as students often do not use the ground floor to work but to talk and eat, there are other spaces on campus designed for that specific purpose.

DIS stated it would be difficult to put in place.

Noting no other discussion CEC called for a vote to approve the motion.

LGBTQ+ left the meeting and did not cast a vote. Voting members rest at 9 majority.



For: 6
Against:2
Abstain:1

Motion Passed

Following the final vote PRES put forward the notion to automatically consider items 14 and 15 as read and approved.

CEC agreed and proceeded to item 12

4. Items for discussion

a. Scrutiny Panel

CEC discussed the nature of the Scrutiny Panel and its intention with regard to officers and their work.

PRES felt it would

b. Elections timeframe/Logistics

PM discussed the timeframe of the upcoming elections and informed the members and those in attendance of the schedule.

c. CEO Announcement

PRES discussed the appointment of the new CEO who will be starting employment with the SU in the next couple of months.

d. NUS Financial situation

PRES discussed the current financial situation of the National Union of Students following a recent announcement in the press