



Executive Council
Thursday 14th February 2019
RW006

Chair:

Dan Grayson (ECC)

Thomas Bowes (DECC)

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)

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)

Evan Mortimer: LGBTQ+ Officer (LGBTQ+)

Katie Goodacre: Mature/Postgraduate Officer

Jenny Marchant: Chair of Humanities, Religion and Philosophy

In attendance:

Paul Murtough: Student Voice Coordinator

Donna Smith: Chief Executive Officer

Apologies:

Olivia Bowers: President of Wellbeing and Diversity

Millan Tankaria: Chair of Health Sciences (HSC)

Laura Gove: Chair of Languages and Linguistics

Anna Gunby: Chair of Performance and Media Production

Emma Sayce: Disabilities Officer (DIS)

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Any Other Business:

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

Councillors raised the following:

- University Strategy
- Women's network
- AGM



1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

ECC requested that members approve the minutes pending any final amends.

PSU requested a change to abbreviation and will be recognised as the aforementioned as opposed to 'PRES'.

Minutes were approved by the council.

2. Matters Arising

ECC called for Council to review the matters arising from the previous meeting and requested POE to present the 'Principle of Feedback' to council.

POE stated that this has been deferred to a later meeting due to the introduction of a new Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Learning and Teaching and further work needing to be done.

3. Items for Decision

ECC called the Council to discuss all matters for decision.

a. Schedule of Business

ECC asked members to approve the amended schedule – this was noted and approved by all.

b. Lapsed Policies

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

S58: NUS policy

PSU noted that providing updates regarding NUS has become an embedded part of their activity updates and therefore felt that this policy should lapse.

No discussion was presented at this point and ECC called for the vote.

For: 9
Against: 1
Abstain: 1

Policy has lapsed.

S60: Equality in Publicising

PSU requested that members reinstate this policy to ensure that work continues to provide accessible information for all students.

CoS-PSS noted that they were not aware this policy existed which should prompt it to stay in place.

LGBTQ+ also felt that this should be acknowledged wider and be reinstated.



For: 11
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

The policy is reinstated

C. Motions for change

EC05: Drug use

PWD presented a written statement to council in response to the proposed policy. ECC read the statement to council which read:

I am aware that there is an increase in drug use by our students at YSJ. Consequently, I have emailed the Head of Campus and Residential services, Wellbeing and Mental Health manager and the Welfare Advisor to arrange a meeting where we can discuss what can be done to tackle this issue.

Following this ECC presented several ground rules for the base of discussion in this policy. There would be no discussion on the 'pros or cons' of drug use, no discussion on the morality of drug use.

CEO also clarified that newly introduced testing kits allow people to test for 'drug misuse' as opposed to just 'use' which may be useful to discussion.

Members asked questions surrounding the use of prescriptive drugs which aren't presented in the motion and that the motion doesn't necessarily present opportunity for students to openly speak out about drug use and concerns over addiction. ECC noted that the Students' Union has a zero-tolerance policy in place against misuse.

CoS-Edu felt that the 'Zero tolerance' approach may hinder students coming forward to speak about their addictions or concerns for another.

BAME asked whether specific drugs would be named.

EDU stated that there would be no policy created surrounding use of specific drugs.

CEO interjected that the fundamentals of the motion relate to the use/misuse of drugs generally.

CoS-BUS asked whether this policy would encapsulate alcohol.

Due to the lack of clarification on the motion ECC suggested to postpone the conversation until all members of council were present.

For: 11
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion deferred



EC06: Equal Opportunities Policy

ECC invited BAME to present an opening statement for the motion. Following this the feasibility statement provided by PWD (below) was provided to council.

Revision of Student Unions Equal Opportunities Policies. Students and Our People (More depth scope of Equality & Diversity and the inclusion of all students) Refer to the <http://www.legislation.gov.uk> Equality Act. Prohibited Conduct: Racial Discrimination, Harassment, Victimization. I want to see this change because York St. John Student union is a campaigning and representative organisation that needs to support and represent its diverse membership.

PSU stated that this should be presented to the Liberation Officers.

BAME iterated that all policies within the union should be compliant

LGBTQ+ noted that it is good practice to review policies prior to council to ensure they are up to date and compliant.

No more discussion was presented

For:	10
Against:	0
Abstain:	1

The motion was passed

EC07: BAME representation

BAME presented an opening statement in which it was argued that more needed to be done about variety and promotion of BAME groups.

CEO stated that council should be cautious with this regarding not seeming tokenistic, but rather be authentic

LGBTQ+ felt that pressures towards officers should be considered and not to overload others.

POE felt that it is a give and act, there should be no forcing individuals. Additionally, she agreed with the CEO that there needs to be an authenticity in telling the stories of our students, individuals write their own narratives.

BAME suggested that materials such as 'humans of New York' should be a good starting point, taking individuals and allowing them to express their own lives and experiences which aren't manufactured/posed.

LGBTQ+ highlighted that there is also a 'Humans of Leeds' which provides the same ideology.

PRES noted that this could fit with an upcoming campaign 'Why York St John?'



ECC called for the vote.

For:	9
Against:	1
Abstain:	1

The motion passed

EC08: Diversity in the Curriculum

BAME presented to council the argument that more needs to be done to liberate the curriculum. There are limited and out of date resources available and more should be done to broaden the scope.

POE presented a feasibility statement in support of the motion which reads:

Both motions (EC08 and EC09) are important and have my support. I am for motion EC08 and I know that the Academic Liaison Librarians (ALLs) are working hard to achieve what is outlined in this motion. As the library and the curriculum are intertwined, I think that motion EC09 should be incorporated into/combined with motion EC08.

In addition, POE stated that she felt this motion should be passed to carry on the work.

LGBTQ+ re-iterated the sentiment regarding the lack of diverse materials in the learning centre but praised the work of the ALL team (Academic Liaison Librarians) for their supportive efforts to students.

ECC called for the vote

For:	10
Against:	0
Abstain:	1

Motion Passed

EC09: Broad Curricula

BAME presented the opening discussion in which she highlighted that a lack of knowledge in wider sectors prohibit students from engaging in discussion. The systematic 'white curriculum' presents opportunities for comments to be made which are not done so out of malice but rather ignorance.

POE iterated her support for this motion

BAME further felt that this should present an opportunity to begin conversations and experience the reality for individuals.

Cos-PSS felt that the current system does not present opportunity for a diversified range of explorations. In widening the curricula, you can present more opportunities for realistic application of material in the workplace.



PG/Mature noted that in the wider sense of the student experience, Mature students often feel isolated, which in a similar way can create scenarios in which they feel patronised due to a lack of understanding their circumstance and levels of experience.

POE informed the members that she works with the placement working group which mandates the module layouts, but conversation is currently taking place.

ECC called for a vote.

For: 10
Against: 0
Abstain: 1

Motion passed

EC010: Learning Support Plans

POE presented the initial response to the motion noting that work surrounding LSPs is continual and meetings are in place to discuss. The work surrounding 'Universal design for learning' is the current ideal process in the event of LSPs being removed.

BAME noted that she was unaware if any academics were aware of her LSP which is in place. There is no consistency.

CoS-HRP has noted that she has received feedback from two perspectives, that students don't receive the right support and that students are unaware of the support available.

LGBTQ+ stated that the library staff do present general support for students.

ECC called for a vote on the motion.

For: 11
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed

4. Items for discussion

a. Elections

SVC was invited to open discussion surrounding the upcoming elections.

BAME asked (due to three liberation positions being unfilled) where the relevant information could be found regarding their positions,

SVC noted that this can be found in the byelaws

BAME asked if this could be presented somewhere more accessible.

LGBTQ+ asked what is happening about a by-election.

SVC noted this is a discussion for the elections committee.

At this moment the meeting was adjourned due to 4 members having declared their need to leave. Meeting closed at 18:50