Open Zone
Monday 27th March, 4pm
HG013

Present

Chair
Izzy Tooke - VP Education (VPE)

Students' Union Officers/staff
Laurie Illingworth - SU President (PRES), Louise Aiken - Membership Engagement Manager (LA), Karl Swales - Sports Coordinator (KS)

Chairs of School
George Coombs – Chair of School: Art, Design and Computer Science

York St. John University Staff
Rob Hickey, Mandy Asghar, Emma Wilkins, Andrew Fern, Abbigail Ollive, Nicola Colton, Andy Smith

Student Representatives
Nathan Parkin, Thomas Greenough, Ed Smith, Megan Coull, Asha Mattan Rogers, Jasmine Craft, Michael Smaje, Maddy Beschizza, Lizzie Smith, Nicholas Hall, Niall Almond, Jake Sewell, Alex Pollard, Ed Borwell, Seamus Casey, Chris Johnson, Becky Glen, Gabby Quinn, Dan Cook, Katie Boyd, Tia Welsh, Holly Ainsworth, Vikki Uden, Alex Terry, Ametia Wink-Simmon, Hannah Scott, Kayleigh Burton, Jack Niles

Apologies
None recorded

Welcome & Introductions
VPE welcomed all in attendance to the meeting and presented staff with the opportunity for introduction

Items for Any Other Business
No items were taken

Agenda Items

1. Digital Literacy and culture
2. Haxby Road Development
3. Student Journey Discussion
4. Student Engagement Strategy

1. Digital Literacy and culture

VPE welcomed RH to begin the discussion.

RH asked students what could be done to improve digital literacy,

It was identified that students did not feel as confident as they could with Microsoft Office

VPE asked how many students engage with the workshops provided by ILS – should the university provide full training for Excel

MA asked if this should be featured as a part of a student's degree

CoS (EDU) stated that this would be course dependant

JS stated that ICT study skills was provided as a part of the course but wasn't utilised as well as it could have been

Students felt that any training proviso should be more applicable to the relative degree and that it should be provided at a basic level at level 1 and advanced study for 2&3

RH asked whether students would be against it being open to all to attend

Students agreed that this would be good but rightfully so cannot comment for other students outside of the meeting

MA asked if there are any thoughts on the use of social media for study and development

CoS (ADC) stated that programs such as Excel etc. need a focus; there are limited numbers of students who would be unsure as to the capabilities of social media platforms

RH asked about the potential of a digital (online) based module

Some students stated that this already takes place but it is distracting it may be useful for some groups of students i.e. commuters, student parents but it limits interaction and increases the pressure to be self-motivating.

VU stated that attendance monitoring and absences would have to be carefully considered.

RH also mentioned to students that other institutions are currently utilising apps/dashboards which will inform students of their performance including grades, attendance etc. Used as a way to give students some owned accountability. RH wanted to know student thoughts on this.

JC stated that some lecturers already use online technology, particularly for video capture – perhaps this could be looked at

MA stated that some institutions use 'lecture capture' but this isn't currently available at YSJU, this can however be looked into.

2. Haxby Road Development

RH continued discussion and moved into the proposal for a new 3G pitch to be placed at Haxby Road. This would mean that the Hockey pitch would be removed and therefore the Hockey team would be required to relocate for purposes of training/matches. The reason behind this request is the current promise from I2I to increase the numbers of students to 150 at the end of a three year cycle (currently 20 students). This would mean income generation that would be placed back to the students. The stipend of the students attending YSJU is that they are placed on a program which contracts them to playing semi-professional football (soccer)

BG (Women's Hockey) felt that students would potentially miss out on a vital experience including the current atmosphere at Haxby Road

Men's Rugby Union stated that all training is done external and the students have benefitted due to the comradery it won't be impacted all that much

AS stated that in previous years there have been times when sports didn't have any place to train/play and the university/Students' Union did the best to accommodate. Negative aspects of this can be overcome and the student experience is incredibly important, therefore the university could aid in the promotion of the club to new and prospective students.

RH outlined that the university will promise to cover the cost of transport in order for the club to operate as best as it can and asked what more could be done for the students

BG stated that currently they are hearing a lot of promises but no confirmation of what will happen.

Hockey presented examples of times when club members have been injured and there was no assistance to cover costs for protective headwear.

KS stated that in a similar instance to requests for shin pads etc. it is the personal responsibility of the club/members to provide those items.

BG stated that whatever was agreed, there would need to be signed obligations by the university, Students' Union and captains of the Hockey teams. Currently the cost of transport alone stands at over £6000

NH stated that the teams cannot train on grass and there aren't many places available as an alternative.

RH stated that should the plans go through then there will be more money to invest into the resources required for the club.

BG also felt that if the students are moved to an alternative ground it would heavily impact on spectator numbers for matches.

AS stated that live streaming and various other methods of visualising the match could be looked into.

RH also stated that buses could be organised for supporters.

TW asked what level of financial burden would be placed on the club

RH stated that there would be none.

Members asked if there was a possibility to re-build the pitch in the future

RH stated that in the immediacy, no, but it certainly can happen further down the line.

TW asked if the pitch could be replaced in the future, why remove it now

RH stated that this is purely due to time constraints as I2I would implement the deal this year.

RH was also asked if this investment from I2I directly benefited the university (financially)

RH responded stating that there would be no profit from the arrangement and that every penny earned would be placed directly back into the students and their experience.

Students asked who covers the cost of the new pitch and how much is it

RH stated that it is funded from the university and would cost £300,000 to develop

Members asked of the feasibility of I2I training elsewhere on another 3G pitch

RH stated that it is more about the playing aspect.

TW asked if the university could guarantee the 150 students by the end of the cycle

RH responded by saying that it is the obligation of the company to provide this and if they fail to do so the university would still receive the income.

NH stated that whilst there is every confidence that the university could provide and will do everything it can to assist, the Hockey team as a whole feel bullied and pushed aside and the announcement has been made with poor timing.

RH affirmed the team that the university will do everything it can to help.

VPE suggested that the Hockey club, officers and staff meet to further discuss this out of the zone setting.

Action: To arrange a joint meeting for all parties

3. Student Journey discussion

VPE welcomed AO to talk to students about the next steps for the institution and how they market to prospective students.

On flipchart, students were asked to answer the following questions:

1. What are our values?
2. What stories do you tell?
3. How could we continue this discussion with students?

Due to the nature of this task, no further minutes could be recorded.

4. Student Engagement Strategy

MA was welcomed to the floor to ask students a small sample of questions regarding a join project currently being developed by VPE, RDC, MA and a sub-group around academic student engagement

1. Do you currently have a voice in influencing your programme?
Students from the school of ADC stated that there have been meeting times for Course Reps provided to students but due to clerical error they have not taken place at any point in the academic year.

Students felt that there is a voice but it is questionable as to whether it is listened to

In some instances it was stated that students do not feel acknowledged and it can't be confirmed if change has taken place or is being considered.

Some students stated that a lecturer uses sections of the sessions to gather feedback from students and respond instantly to any queries.

2. Are there enough ways to communicate to students?

CoS (ADC) stated that the Education Zone has presented fantastic opportunities to liaise with the Heads of School - something that previously wouldn't have been available.

Students felt that more traditional methods such as comment boxes would be a good idea rather than over complicated methods.

Present a specified day for a meeting, once a semester with Course Reps.

VPE stated that for Course Reps there should be regular meetings that non-reps may not know about

It was stated that not having the knowledge of when a meeting takes place makes it difficult to acknowledge when feedback should be given to Course Reps

VU stated that the ownership should be placed on the Course Reps as it is their responsibility to gain feedback and insight from students.

MS stated that a meeting had been held during the day for reps but only a limited number attend, meaning that a large number of students do not have their voices heard.

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Summary of actions

Agenda item	Action:	Assigned to:
Haxby Road Development	Action: To arrange a joint meeting for all parties *(Page 5)*	VPE