



YSJSU Executive Committee

Thursday 3rd November, 12:30pm

SK130

Present

Chair

Laurie Illingworth - SU President (PRES),

Students' Union Officers

Izzy Tooke – Vice President Education (VPE), Katie Irving – Vice President Welfare and Diversity (VPWD)

Chairs of School

George Coombs – Chair of School: Art, Design and Computer Science, Steph Foxton – Chair of School: English Language and Linguistics, Laura Castle – Chair of School: Performance and Media Production, Joe Lynch – Chair of School: Health Sciences, Caitlin Jackson – Chair of School: Psychological and Social Sciences

Leader of Senate

Aidan Laycock (LOS)

Students' Union staff

Chris Bateman – Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Louise Aiken – Membership Engagement Manager (MEM), Paul Murtough – Representation and Democracy Coordinator (RDC)

Apologies

Matthew English – Chair of School: Business, Thomas Devlin – Chair of School: Humanities, Religion and Philosophy, Fran Ansell – Chair of School: Sport, Lizzie Smith – Chair of School: Education

Welcome & Introductions

PRES welcomed all in attendance to the meeting and presented all in attendance with the opportunity for introduction

Items for Any Other Business

None were taken

Agenda Items

1. AGM format
2. Senate
3. Annual Elections: Who and when?
4. Zones: Reflection and Evaluation
5. Sabbatical roles and responsibilities
6. Policy Lapse
7. Student Disciplinary Policy and associated procedures

1. AGM format

PRES introduced the discussion for the format of the upcoming AGM (Annual General Meeting) on the 5th December 2016 and asked for thoughts from the committee.

Chair of School (PSS) asked for clarification of the time.

PRES stated 12pm.

PRES suggested that as the AGM is a meeting where students can pose questions to the officers, the Chairs of School produce a summary of points to publicise to members in attendance.

LOS asked if this could be produced via a video and made public prior to the meeting

PRES stated this would be possible to do and insisted that the committee work to bring in as many students as possible.

LOS asked if a survey to gather questions could be made prior to the meeting as with the Open Zone.

Action: PRES to create and circulate a question submission survey

All agreed that this was a good idea.

The question was asked as to a theme/incentive for the meeting.

Suggestions were to create a festive theme

2. Senate

PRES introduced LOS to lead the next item of the meeting; to discuss items for the upcoming Senate meeting on 10th November.

LOS began by introducing all upcoming change ideas and asked the relevant officer to briefly explain the purpose of their submissions.

In order to establish a running order of the meeting LOS further requested that those in attendance vote on prioritising the changes.

CEO stated that each member should be given three votes across the seven items.

All members voted and agreed the order would be:

S52: Bring Braille to campus

VPWD introduced the purpose of the change as a result of concerns highlighted at the Wellbeing and Community Zone

Chair of School (ELL) continued to state that this issue is found within the School and work is currently being done into resolving it

S53: Resources, Resources, Resources

VPE stated the purpose of this change was to highlight student concerns risen at the Education Zone and work with the university to ensure that resources such as Moodle are used correctly across YSJU.

In addition to this change, Chairs of School (PSS, Health Sciences) stated that the software 'SPSS' once available in the library is now confined to labs, limiting the opportunity for students to be able to work and has resulted in a cancellation/rescheduling of assessments

S54: SW5 Programme

VPWD stated the purpose of this change was to enact student opinion that participatory activity should be a primary focus of YSJU and the Students' Union with the potential removal of funding from Sport England.

Chair of School (ADCS) asked if there was opportunity for the funding to continue?

MEM stated that funding could continue if the criteria, established by Sport England is met.

CEO stated that the Students' Union will ensure, on the back of this change, that participation will be considered in the planning for 2017/18 academic year.

LOS asked if it was worth holding until the next senate after confirmation from Sport England is received.

CEO stated it is worth proceeding with the motion.

S55: We need a new boat house

VPWD stated that this was an outcome of the Sports and Societies Zone, it was felt that the boat house in current use is not fit for purpose and the change is to ensure this facility is looked into and prioritised for the students.

S56: Activities for all

VPWD introduced the change which was created after discussion at the Equality and Diversity Zone which has prompted the Students' Union to look into the accessibility of its activities i.e. fun runs and ensuring that future activities are wholly inclusive.

Members asked what would the mandate do.

VPWD responded stating a policy would be developed

Chair of School (ELL) stated that goalball is a current interest elsewhere.

VPWD stated this is being looked into within the Sports and Activities department at the Students' Union.

S57: Sunday Night Live

VPE stated that at the Entertainment Zone, students requested that the Fresher's Week event become a monthly/termly item and the change works to ensure that this request is carried forward.

A full breakdown of the changes and Senate agenda can be found [here](#).

Minutes of the zones can be found at www.ysjsu.com/minutes

LOS left the meeting

3. Annual elections: Who and when?

PRES introduced the discussion, after a successful election in late October discussions are now to be had around the logistics of the annual elections in February 2017.

Members were asked to consider who do we elect and how long should the period be?

Chair of School (ELL) felt that the elections for the Chair positions should be kept separate as it would create a 'chaotic' atmosphere on campus and intimidate students and limit the chances of voting.

VPWD stated that it would work differently as the Chairs would only be elected within their school as opposed to cross campus.

Chair of School (ELL) understood the point, but felt that all elections, with a large amount of candidates would only bombard the students.

Chair of School (PSS) reiterated this point.

VPE stated that elections as a whole in a week would create a bigger hype and atmosphere.

Chair of School (ADCS) stated it is the job of the officers and Students' Union as a whole to promote the elections and the positions.

Chair of School (Health Sciences) stated that students will vote for who they want, separating the elections may diminish the importance of the Chairs.

PRES felt that separating the elections may cause students to lose interest and that an election so close to the start of the year appears anti-climactic.

Chair of School (PMP) Felt that more time is needed in order for students to prepare for standing and voting, the current situation could not be helped but more needs to be done.

Chair of School (Health Sciences) felt that the elections in October is far to early, suggested a short break between the sabbatical and chair elections.

Chair of School (ADCS) felt that the bigger gap is needed

Chair of School (Health Sciences) stated that by having a shorter break there is still

acknowledgement from the students that an election is still happening and the 'hype' will still be around on campus.

Chair of School (PSS) asked which is felt as more important, the Sabbaticals are seen as more important and more students will vote for them.

PRES stated that regardless, the executive team are equally important and in which case asked if the election should remain together to keep this.

VPWD introduced a previously discussed idea that elections would take place in the same week but with a different focus, Chairs would be at the end of the week with chance of a 'Fresher's fair' style event at the Students' Union to promote themselves and their campaign activities.

Chair of School (PSS) felt this seemed like a much better idea.

VPE stated it would provide a different atmosphere to the campus which would reflect positively on the students by detracting attention of all candidates from spots such as Fountains.

CEO stated that if this was felt to be the better option, a recommendation from the Executive Committee can be placed to the Elections Committee.

All agreed.

Action: For PRES to deliver the recommendation of the Executive Committee to the Elections Committee

4. Zones: Reflection and Evaluation

PRES asked for thoughts on the zones which took place between September and October.

Chair of School (ADCS) stated they are excellent, simplistic and well executed.

Chair of School (Health Sciences) felt that there was good engagement from students, and whilst there may not be many attend all the zones, students are still interested.

Chair of School (PSS) felt that promotion, particularly by word of mouth would help raise engagement.

Chair of School (ADCS) stated that to have staff engagement was good and would suggest this to most, if not all the zones.

Chair of School (PSS) felt that to have staff attend allows for them to see the positive aspect of students comments on their course/school and creates a balance of students and staff working together.

Chair of School (ADCS) stated that the Open Zone worked very well with Prof. Karen Stanton, but what will happen in the future?

VPE stated that staff attendance to the Open Zone would very much depend on the discussion topics; the aim of the Zone is to highlight any particular subject that does not fit within any of the other zones.

Chair of School (ELL) Stated that feedback from Course Representatives on the Education Zone was very positive and it was well received.

PRES informed the committee of changes to the Sports and Societies Zone by which the traditional 'forums' for committees will be placed at either end of the Zone and timings will be extended.

5. Sabbatical roles and responsibilities

PRES provided the committee with copies of the current duties of the officers and asked for feedback.

It was agreed that to discuss this another committee will be held prior to the Elections Committee which meets on the 5th December,

Action: PRES to organise the meeting of the committee with relevant staff

6. Policy Lapse

RDC discussed policies which have lapsed in accordance with the articles of the Students' Union; these will be removed from the website.

7. Student Disciplinary Policy and associated procedures

CEO informed the committee that the policy and procedures had been updated in the summer.

The policy is there to act if a student is found to be in breach of the rules and outlines the necessary actions to be taken.

Date of Next Meeting

TBC

Summary of actions

| Agenda item | Action: | Assigned to: |
|--|--|--------------|
| AGM format | For a question 'pre-submission' survey to be developed and distributed <i>(Page 2)</i> | PRES |
| Annual election: Who and When? | To ensure the recommendation of the committee is delivered to the Elections Committee on 5 th December <i>(Page 5)</i> | PRES |
| Sabbatical roles and responsibilities | To ensure that the committee meet prior to the elections committee to establish the outline of the roles <i>(Page 6)</i> | PRES |