



**Open Zone**  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 4pm**  
**DG124**

## Present

### Chair

Izzy Tooke - VP Education (VPE)

### Students' Union Officers/staff

Laurie Illingworth - SU President (PRES), Katie Irving – VP Welfare and Diversity (KI), Christopher Duff – Information Point Assistant (CD), Louise Aiken - Membership Engagement Manager (LA), Matthew Walton - Sports & Activities Manager (MW), Karl Swales - Sports Coordinator (KS), Charlie Freeman - Sports Participation Co-ordinator (CF)

### Chairs of School

Fran Ansell - Chair of School: Sport, Steph Foxton - Chair of School: English Language and Linguistics, George Coombs – Chair of School: Art, Design and Computer Science

### York St. John University Staff

Prof. Karen Stanton – Vice Chancellor (VC), Rachel Kirkup - Student Communications Officer, Grant Saker – Student Recruitment Officer

## Student Representatives

### Art, Design and Computer Science

Ellie Plews - Fine Art

### York Business School

Kirsty Stokes – Business Management

### Health Sciences

Charlotte Watkinson – Physiotherapy, Joshua Williams- Biomedical Science, Sian Leighton - Biomedical Science

### Humanities, Religion and Philosophy

Alison Langhorn – American Studies, Daniel Johnson – Contemporary Literature

# YSJSU | MEETING MINUTES

## Sport

Shannon Davies - Physical Education and Youth Sport

## Apologies

Chris Bateman - Chief Executive Officer, Paul Murtough – Representation and Democracy Coordinator

## 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. Election of the Zone Senators
2. Open discussion with the Vice Chancellor

### 1. Election of the Zone Senators

VPE introduced the Senate and expanded on what Senate's intended purpose is  
No students were elected to the Senate

### 2. Open discussion with the Vice Chancellor

VPE introduced the opportunity for students to ask the VC any questions they may have  
students had also submitted questions prior to the meeting

#### Open questions:

##### Haxby Road Development:

Q: Haxby Road appears to be purpose built for sports, what facilities are there for societies?

A: The VC began by expressing her appreciation for a format such as the Open Zone; relating to the Haxby Road isn't intentionally built solely for sport, it is a facility built for teaching and research.

The VC continued to say that the space can act in a multi-functional capacity with catering provision which provides a social element. It would be interesting to hear what the societies would like to see.

Q: can we take students to the new facility on an open day?

A: The facility has not yet been handed over from the builders

#### Societies, Joseph Rowntree Theatre:

Q: Joseph Rowntree Theatre is owned by the University, and costs in excess of £2,800 to rent, why is this?

A: The VC responded that she was unsure of this and will look into it.

**Action:** VC to report of the findings of this to the VPE

#### Cordukes building:

The VC stated that the long term intention of the building is to transform into a multipurpose space for teaching and not a specialist environment.

#### Questions from the floor:

##### Design space for students:

Q: Is there potential to develop a space for design students?

A: The VC responded that there are options and capital is available for development but teaching spaces are in high demand.

##### Future course development:

Q: Are there plans to introduce more courses at YSJ?

A: The VC stated that the focus is currently on growing on what we already have, for example linking subjects together by modules; alongside this there are options of introducing police studies but research into the layers of building the subject have to be considered. There will also be the development of more liberal arts programs. The VC also noted that current interest and attendance to open days has increased by 40%

##### School of English Language and Linguistics:

Q: Are the plans to introduce MA level courses in the school?

A: The VC responded that if the school facilitates, it is important for the university to develop and support these strategies

##### Brexit and the university:

Q: How will Brexit affect our international students the university as a whole?

A: The VC expressed that there was a deep sense of shock across the sector at the result and now U.K universities will be working together to ensure that funding is allocated to

allow students from the E.U full loan accessibility. A highlighted problem would be around the intake of students from abroad and single semester. There are reports to be published on the uncertainty of the effects but YSJ will continue to do all it can for current students.

## The campus feel

Q: What is your favourite part of campus?

A: The VC responded the Lord Mayor's Walk vistas, view overlooking from Gillygate and the imminent onset of the 'Illuminate York' festival at YSJ looks incredible.

## Fees and quality

Q: With a rise in tuition fees, will quality increase too?

A: The VC stated that TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) will look into the measures to assess quality levels. There is uncertainty on the new system of evaluating institutions at 'bronze, silver and gold' and it can appear a bit patronising; the worry being that students will then choose institutions based on the rankings.

Q: Will this then affect the value of the courses?

A: We could potentially lose low income students, we greatly value these students and do not want to create a '2<sup>nd</sup> class' style of living and student experience.

Q: If fees do rise, how can the university help?

A: Offices for fair access – we work hard to re-invest the tuition fees back to the students. There are big discussions around how we personalise this for the journey of our sets of students.

Q: Will we get a better experience?

A: We will utilise data taken from the NSS (National Student Survey) and evaluate what needs to be done. We don't want to lose the uniqueness and community feel of YSJ.

Q: What did you study at university?

A: History, I would definitely study this again and would love to return to a bit of teaching at some point.

## Date of Next Meeting

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 4pm, SU Coffee Lounge

# YSJSU | MEETING MINUTES

## Summary of actions

Agenda item	Action:	Assigned to:
Open questions: Joseph Rowntree Theatre	The VC to report the findings of the expenses for Joseph Rowntree in relation to Societies use and create a better deal for students. <i>(Page 3)</i>	VC