

Student Council

02/11/20

Present:

Briony English - BE

Chris Dow – CD

Chelsey Grooby – CG

Delaram Joze-Ramezani - DJR

Jasmine Grewal – JG

Joseph Nelson - JN

Laura Pickering – LP

Niamh Burton – NB

Olivia Bartlett – OB

Rachael Chapman – RC

Rachel Powell – RP

Rebecca Mills – RM

Vinay Verma – VV

Staff Present:

Lucy Smith – LS

Absent with Formal Apologies:

Beth Robinson – BR

Huba Ali – HA

Muhammad Tahir – MT

Absent without Formal Apologies:

Dorina Glejdan – DG

Item 1 – Welcome from the Chair

VV welcomed officers and students to the meeting

Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

VV asked councillors to approve minutes of the previous meeting

VV moved to a vote

Council voted unanimously to approve

Item 3 – Matters Arising

VV moved to Item 3 and asked if there were any urgent items to bring up that were not on the agenda

CG highlighted the national lockdown due to begin later in the week and expressed that campaigns and events will be more difficult moving forward

CG noted that students are planning on moving home imminently and that there may be reduced numbers on campus from the end of the week

VV asked whether a blended approach to teaching and learning was still being taken

CG responded that this approach was still going ahead but that students can now book onto physical sessions and explained this process

Item 4 – Action Tracker and Attendance Log

VV moved to Item 4 and asked for an update on policy 024 – Gender Neutral Bathrooms

CD updated to Council on the progress made so far which included conversations with relevant staff

CD stated that action will be delayed due to national lockdown, but that StUdio staff were looking to change signage to gender neutral

Action: StUdio toilet signage to be changed by January with update on University toilets due January as well

Item 5 – Sabbatical Officer Reports

VV moved to Item 5 and invited the sabbatical officers to update on their goals

CG took goals as read and summarised progress

CG explained that the only area where no progress has been made is transport as she felt time and resources were better spent on academic issues, welfare, and activities due to lockdown

BE entered meeting

CG moved to questions

No questions were forthcoming

CD took goals as read, summarised progress, and explained the colour coding of his goals

CD noted funding secured for sports clubs and societies

CD encouraged officers to keep populating Student Say with ideas due to the excellent campaigns stemming from it

VV thanked officers for their work and noted a positive focus on keeping students safe and creating an effective learning environment despite current obstacles

VV asked everyone to introduce themselves and briefly note what they have been working on in the last month

VV introduced self and noted work carried out to support Primary Education students

OB introduced self and noted issues with timetabling

VV asked OB to email relevant staff to move forward with this drop

Action: OB to email Duncan Martin

RM noted Course Rep training and how to further promote herself to student representatives within her school including a video message

VV applauded this and encouraged all other officers to promote themselves on social media

RM also expressed that she wanted to promote charities that can support students during another lockdown

LP stated that she had been looking into ways to make the University more sustainable by attending various webinars

LP also noted that she would be putting another Student Say idea up

JN introduced self and explained issues specific to mature and part-time students, including feelings of isolating and lack of engagement

JN mentioned that postgraduate researchers and PhD students were aiming to start a mental health and wellbeing group which he would keep Council updated on

RP noted the wealth of emails she had received about captions on videos

RP mentioned plans for Disability History Month to Council

RC expressed concerns that mature students' learning plans are not being read and that postgraduate students do not feel welcomed on campus outside of lectures

RC said they would gather more feedback on this issue

VV asked RC and JN to work together on to create an online support network for postgraduate students

RC and JN agreed

Action: RC and JN to create online support network for postgraduate students

JG mentioned communications undertaken with students and other officers

JG expressed contentment with conclusion of timetabling issues

BE explained work on Policy 024 (Gender Neutral Toilets) and preliminary work on pronoun badges

BE expressed difficulties faced connecting with first year students

BE noted plans to hold an event for Transgender Day of Remembrance

NB explained that she had been speaking to students living in the Headingley area and encouraging safety due to the recent assaults

VV expressed concern for students living in Headingley and encouraged officers to work together on this

Action: NB to look into the possibility of giving out rape alarms to students

VV suggested a short video showing support could go out across SU social media

CD updated Council on the work undertaken to show support for students in Headingley

Item 6 – Decisions on policy due to expire

VV moved to Item 6

VV moved to Policy 001 – Free Periods

CD updated Council on progress

VV asked if there were sanitary products in toilets on campus

CD responded that there are not

VV expressed surprise that sanitary products were not available in toilets and noted they should be

CD agreed

VV asked Councillors to raise hands for retention

Council unanimously voted to retain policy

VV moved to Policy 002 – Cut the (Placement) Costs

CG offered background to the policy

CG offered to pick this up again and gain more of a response from students

VV asked Councillors to raise hands for retention

Council unanimously voted to retain policy

VV moved to Policy 003 – Assistive Technology on Campus

CG explained motion and noted that resolves were completed

CD updated Council on the progress made on this motion

VV moved to vote

CG and CD agreed to build on the foundations of this motion with RP

Council vote unanimously to lapse policy 003 as resolves complete

VV moved to Policy 004 – LGBT+ Inclusive Sport

CG offered background to this policy and noted that most resolves were complete

CD explained that he will be writing a policy to mandate all incoming Vice Presidents to continue with the LGBT+ inclusivity programme (resolve 6)

Action: CD to author policy in line with resolve 6 of Policy 004

VV moved to vote to retain policy 004

Council voted with a majority to retain

VV moved to Policy 005 – Microwaves to the Canteen

CG explained that policy has been completed

Council unanimously agreed to lapse policy 005

VV moved to policy 006 – Lockers on Campus

CG explained that policy has been completed

Council unanimously agreed to lapse policy 006

VV moved to policy 007 – Giving Blood on Campus

CG explained why the resolves were not possible and that the policy could be lapsed

Council unanimously agreed to lapse policy 007

VV thanked officers for support with previous policies

Item 7 – Motions Debate

VV moved to Item 7 and invited BE to summarise to motion 025 – Staff members wearing pronoun badges

BE summarised motion and noted that pronoun badges would make students and staff more comfortable, and that they would be optional

CD noted plans for Union staff to wear badges and possibility of stocking them in the SU Shop

CD updated Council on including pronouns in University staff email signatures

VV moved to vote

Council voted unanimously in favour

VV invited CD to summarise motion 026 – Include more mental health signposting coasters in StUdio

CD summarised motion on behalf of BR

VV moved to vote

Council voted unanimously in favour

VV invited CG to summarise motion 027 – Update Heritage Halls

CG ran through motion, explaining that the four oldest halls on campus need updating

Council voted unanimously in favour

VV invited BE to summarise motion 028 – Menstrual products in all bathrooms

BE noted that this motion would build on Free Periods policy to include sanitary products in all bathrooms on campus said

VV moved to vote

Council voted unanimously in favour

VV invited CG to summarise motion 029 – More washers on campus

CG explained that there are currently only 9 washers for 800 students which should be increased

VV inquired if it would be more cost effective to have one washer per floor

CG responded with the maintenance issues this would result in and the disadvantage for bigger flats

VV moved to vote

Council voted unanimously in favour

VV invited DJR to summarise motion 030 – All videos and podcasts to have edited captions

DJR summarised motion and expressed the difficulties faced by students with disabilities and those who speak English as a second language

VV inquired if lecturers used Panopto or other recordings

DJR explained that some lecturers use the software while others do not

DJR noted resolves of motion

JN remarked that his lectures had not been on Panopto but on Teams and asked whether there was a standardised way for this to happen

VV responded that all lectures should be available at any time

JN said that this had not been the case for him

Action: CG and CD to take these concerns to the relevant University staff

BE expressed concern that her department had decided not to record lectures

CG noted that all physical lectures should now be recorded and available through the LTU app

VV said that the issue now is that Teams lectures are not always recorded and asked if this extended to online lectures

CG responded that it just applied to physical lectures but would update on the progress of this at the next meeting

JN expressed concern for mature and part-time students with work priorities

RM expressed concern about a lack of resource at a time when focusing is difficult

Action: CG and CD to approach University with Council consensus that it is necessary to record all Teams lectures

VV moved to vote on motion 030

Council voted unanimously in favour

VV invited RP to summarise motion 031 – Provide Sunflower Lanyards

RP explained motion expressing desire to provide lanyards for students and for the University to partner with the scheme

VV moved to vote

Council voted unanimously in favour

VV invited LP to explain motion 032 – Bleed Green – Menstrual Cups

LP summarised motion and expressed thoughts on the waste created by disposable sanitary products, the cost involved for students, and the taboo associated with discussing period health

LP noted resolves of motion

VV asked for clarification on how menstrual cups work

LP explained how they work, noting their reusability

VV queried how much each cup would cost

CD responded that he had spoken to KS regarding this and explained to Council

VV moved to vote

Council voted unanimously in favour

VV invited CD to explain motion 032 – SU to ban single-use plastic freebies – freebie policy

CD summarised his motion and explained that it will contribute towards our Green Impact accreditation

CD explained that the policy will go to the Trustee Board for approval before it is embedded into the SU

JN asked for clarification on the materials that would be banned

CD said just single-use plastics

JN asked for example of single-use plastic items handed out previously

CD ran through some items

RP asked if the balloons sent out to new students would stop

CD responded that this was an initiative run by the University which would not be affected as the policy would only apply to the SU

VV asked if it would impact on what was handed out at Freshers and asked for clarification on the single-use plastic definition

CD clarified

NB verified point regarding balloons

CD reiterated that this is University run and that the SU has banned balloons

VV moved to vote on motion 031

Council passed the motion with 10 votes for and 1 vote against

Item 8 – AOB

JN asked if the SU were providing food vouchers for students

JN asked if there were any plans for Interfaith Week

LS updated on Interfaith Week as HA absent

VV asked for further information on the food support that used to be available

JN responded that Morrison's vouchers were available when he was a Trustee

CG said that this was not an active partnership but that the University provided a hardship fund

VV suggested JN submit an idea to Student Say

LS asked if JN wanted to be involved in Interfaith Week plans

JN responded that he did

Action: LS to invite JN to Interfaith Week meeting

CG introduced idea to showcase work of staff and volunteers and asked for Council feedback and input

VV applauded idea and asked Council to approve it as an action point

Council voted unanimously for this to go ahead

Action: CG to meet with LS, speak to CP about marketing and inform Council

VV congratulated Council on the work being done and closed the meeting