

Student Council

08/02/2021

Present:

Briony English – BE

Chelsey Grooby – CG

Christopher Dow – CD

Huba Ali - HA

Joseph Nelson – JN

Laura Pickering – LP

Muhammad Tahir – MT

Niamh Burton – NB

Olivia Bartlett – OB

Rachael Chapman – RC

Rachel Powell – RP

Rebecca Mills – RM

Vinay Verma – VV

Staff Present:

Lucy Smith – LS

Ruth Wilson – RW

Absent with Formal Apologies:

Jasmine Grewal – JG

Absent without Formal Apologies:

Beth Robinson – BR

Item 1 – Welcome from the Chair

VV welcomed officers and thanked them for their ongoing work during the pandemic

Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

VV moved to Item 2 and asked Council to approve minutes of the previous meeting

Council unanimously approved minutes

Item 3 – Matters Arising

VV moved to Item 3 and asked for updates from each Councillor

CD mentioned Go Green Week and LGBTQ+ History Month

VV asked about Mental Wellbeing Week plans

CD responded that he has been working with Matt Nunnerley on plans spread across a month

BE noted that no students had contacted her

BE updated on LGBTQ+ History Month

RC echoed that no students had contacted them

NB and OB also noted lack of contact from students

MT explained that students had asked about events to do with race in his role as student ambassador

VV asked if there was interest from prospective students

MT answered that there was but that they generally seem fed up with online events

HA and RM had no updates

RP explained that students had been in contact to set up a neurodivergent society as well as a disabled student committee

RP also noted her work on improving accessibility on campus with Management Team at University

JN said he had not had contact with students but had been involved with PGR mental wellbeing chats

VV asked how PG provision was currently

JN explained how the support available for UG not available for PGR

CG asked JN for feedback on types of course to take to meeting on Friday

CG noted that the majority of PG students felt support was inadequate

Action: CG to feedback and follow up on this

JN asked if someone from SU could attend forum

CG said she was happy to

LP answered that a few students had messaged her and there had been positive student input at sustainability meetings

Item 4 – Decision on supporting NSS promotion

RW entered the meeting

VV moved to Item 4 and welcomed RW to meeting

VV handed over to RW

RW introduced herself

RW explained NSS and that mentioned that some Students' Unions have taken position not to support

RW discussed NSS and why she felt the SU should support promotion said will present 'facts' and whether SU want to endorse/promote

Council asked RW questions and raised concerns

RW responded to these

CG explained the process of voting

RW thanked Council for invitation and expressed willingness to attend more regularly for feedback and collaboration

RW left the meeting

CG noted further points for discussion

Council discussed pros and cons of supporting NSS

VV asked for questions or comments

None were forthcoming

VV moved Council to anonymous vote

Council voted for the SU to not support University marketing and communications of the NSS

Item 5 – Approval of Byelaw 5 amendments

VV moved to Item 5

CD introduced Byelaw 5

CD ran through amendments to the Byelaw and summarised tracked changes

VV asked for questions or comments

None were forthcoming

VV moved to vote to approve amendments and updates

Council voted with a majority to approve amendments to Byelaw 5

Item 6 – Action Tracker and Attendance Log

VV moved to Item 6 and asked for quick updates on action tracker

VV moved to policy 024 – Gender Neutral Bathrooms

CD updated and noted progress on this policy

VV moved to policy 025 – Staff Members to Wear Pronoun Badges

CD updated on progress within the SU

VV moved to policy 026 – Mental Health Signposting Coasters in StUdio

CD updated Council

VV moved to policy 027 – Update Heritage Halls

CG noted the areas to be renovated

VV moved to updates on all motions in relation to menstrual health and equality (028, 032, and 001)

CD explained that Uni funding was held due to Covid

VV asked if the letter suggestion was followed up

CD explained that it can't be implemented at the moment due to a leadership changeover and Covid restrictions

VV asked how long this had been policy for

CD responded that it was carried over from March 2020

Action: review at next meeting and if no progress VV will draft a letter as Chair to leadership team

CD noted that menstrual cups will be stocked when shop reopens

VV moved to policy 027 – More Washers on Campus

CG updated on progress for washers in Trinity Close

VV moved to policy 030 – Captioned Videos and Podcasts

RP asked if should be available for all lectures

CG said should be auto option

RP asked if there could be a video explaining how to do this for students

Action: CG to work with RP on video explaining this to students

VV moved to policy 031 – Provide Sunflower Lanyards

RP explained there was a wait for next EDI meeting in March

VV moved to policy 033 – SU to Ban Single-Use Plastic (Freebie Policy)

CD said this was complete

VV moved to 002 – Cut the (Placement) Costs

CG noted she was still waiting on figures

Council discussed differing placement costs and concerns about holding onto placement money

VV asked for update from CG and CD before next council meeting

CG updated Council on #StudentsDeserveBetter campaign and explained there would be more money for the Covid Hardship Fund

VV asked if there were any communications around this

CG said there would be after official announcement

VV moved to policy 004 – LGBT+ Inclusivity in Sport

CD said usual campaigns will begin when sport starts up again

VV thanked Council for their ongoing work

Item 7 – Sabbatical Officer Reports

VV moved to Item 7 – Sabbatical Officer Reports

CG took goals as read

CG updated with Covid Updates including more safety net for PG students and Starbucks reopening on campus

CG updated Council on work with partner students and GM recruitment

CG asked for Councillors to message if they were interested in being on the interview panel

VV moved to CD

CD took goals as read

CG updated Council on accessibility

VV moved to comments or questions

None were forthcoming

Item 8 – Motions Debate

CD presented motion 024 on behalf of proposer

JN mentioned existing crisp packet recycling initiative

CG said she thinks this has stopped

VV moved to comments and questions

None were forthcoming

VV moved to vote

Council voted unanimously to approve motion 024

Item 9 – AOB

VV asked about students' views of new lockdown and their learning

RM expressed concern about lockdown

JN had heard that a lot of students feel they do not want to continue with studies

RC noted a lot of PG students feeling the same way

VV expressed importance of acknowledging and discussing these topics

LP expressed concern at inconsistency of placements at Level 6

RM said that it seems as though students are now expected to be used to the situation but mental health has actually deteriorated since the first lockdown

RP expressed concern at lack of Semester One results

VV asked if any reason had been provided

RP said she had been told that lecturers cannot turn them round that quickly

VV thanked Council for their contributions

LS mentioned elections

VV encouraged Council to bring up issues at the beginning of the meeting