

Student Council

29/11/21

Present:

Abigail Holden - AH

Chelsey Grooby – CG

Emmanuella Osei – EO

Emily-Grace Holden – EGH

Evie Hudson – EH

Kelsey Howard-Matthews – KHM

Molly Jopling – MJ

Rachel Ward – RW

Vinay Verma – VV

Staff Present:

Lucy Smith – LS

Absent with Formal Apologies:

Aleksandra Krysa – AK

Jasmine Grewal - JG

Absent without Formal Apologies:

Bibi Aasia – BA

Kyle Hodgkins – KH

Mahbub Ahmed – MA

Priya Saluja – PS

Sabiyah Zaheer – SZ

Item 1 – Welcome from the Chair

VV welcomed officers to the meeting and clarified this was the last meeting of 2021

Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

VV moved to Item 2 and asked for approval of the minutes from last meeting

Council approved minutes from previous meeting

Item 3 – Matters Arising

VV moved to matters arising

CG updated Council on Christmas Social details

CG updated Council on the plans and expressed that it would be nice to see everyone

VV thanked CG for arranging the Christmas social

CG replied that the General Manager had organised, and she would pass on Council thanks

Council discussed who was coming

Council confirmed that 8 members would be in attendance

Item 4 – Policy Tracker, Action Tracker, and Attendance Log

VV moved to item 4

VV asked for an update on policy 035 – LTU Marketplace

RW updated Council on her meeting with AK and said was waiting to hear back about Sustainability Society

RW discussed setting this up as a Facebook group and suggested how this would work

KHM asked if it could be put on the LTU app as a tile as not all students have access to Facebook but everyone has the LTU app

RW responded that the biggest issue is money but asked CG about this

CG said if it is facilitated through the website then it would not be too much of a problem and that it would be best to speak to Danny Roberts (Student Communications Manager)

KHM and AH discussed how DR wants to help current students

Action: RW to speak to DR about possibility of LTU app tile

VV asked for an update on 036 - Trinity Pride

CG responded that she had not met officially but will catch up with RW and AH when back from annual leave

CG noted that she had joined LGBT+ staff network to ask what plans they have in place at Trinity Pride

CG said RW and AH can contribute on how they wish to this process

VV added that it would be nice if AH and RW could do a lead up of events to Pride to create awareness and highlight the stance from LTU and the SU

VV further noted that an education piece around this would be good

CG replied that this is covered in the resolves of the policy

VV thanked CG

VV moved to an update on policy 037 – Permanent Self-Defence Sessions

KHM asked LS to explain pricing

LS explained that she had reached out to get some quotes

VV asked if we could use a charity instead

CG said they still will usually charge but that it would be nice to support a charity

VV and LS discussed costing

VV asked for an update on policy 09 – Mental Health Crisis Team on Campus

RW and CG explained that they could not currently say anything publicly about this but that they have met with University staff

VV asked for an update on policy 040 – Pronouns on the system

AH responded that the next Name Change Project meeting would take place on 17/12/21

CG added that the first meeting was an introduction to why the project was taking place and that there will be a proposal brought to the next meeting with the potential for student feedback

VV asked for those who are not attached to an officer goal to do so by the next meeting

CG added that if there are no sabbatical officer goals that part-time officers would like to work on then to put a Student Say on the website to work on in January

VV noted that it was a bit disheartening that there is poor engagement from Council when messages are being sent out

VV ran over the actions already discussed

VV asked for update on the action tracker from EO

EO replied that she had had a meeting with the Dean of School and he had received some pointers on the areas needed support with

VV said if EO did not see changes then to come back in the new year to discuss next steps

VV praised the Primary Ed team at LTU

VV thanked EO

VV asked for an update on the action tracker from CG and RW

CG responded that she had met with SU Staff and was honest about student feedback that there had been within the venue

CG said they discussed training and how this was delivered to new staff members

CG added that in terms of food and service quality, this had been communicated to the StUdio Coordinator who is passing it down to staff

VV suggested that there should be a secret shopper every so often

VV asked Council to vote on his secret shopper idea

LS reminded VV that ideas brought to Council need to go through Student Say

CG said this should be across commercial at LTU not just within the SU

VV said that he would put this on Student Say

VV noted absences and asked LS to email students the process of removal

Action: LS to email members with the process surrounding missing Council meetings

CG noted the new Officer Update section and explained its purpose

CG added that it was okay there were no submissions for today as it was short notice but could members please send in updates following the Christmas break

Item 5 – School Rep Reports

VV moved to Item 5

VV asked EH for an update

EH expressed that she felt disappointed, and that action was not being taking

EH noted that at School Board she was waiting for a long time and then not listened to

EH added that she had spoken to lecturers about placement money but had not received any information back

EH said it had been hard to connect with students including Course Reps

EH added that the things that she does want to do are not getting done

VV noted that Deans wanted to avoid more surveys

EH continued that Course Rep meeting attendance had been poor

EH added that feedback is a bit wishy-washy and she is not getting responses when asking for feedback

VV suggested that students might not be praising the improvement on courses

KHM said surveys are always MEQs which are seen as 'self-gratification' for lecturers so students do not want to do them

KHM suggested that instead of getting Course reps to do a survey could there be some time set aside in lecturers to have discussion with Course Reps

KHM said setting aside time to have a physical discussion would be better than a survey if this is possible

EH agreed that verbal feedback is better than via forms

MJ noted that on her course there was confusion around whether lectures were pre-recorded or in person, including in the Module Handbook

EH responded that she had mentioned this to the lecturer and there should be further clarification on this

EH added that she was proud about a situation with a lecturer where a student did not feel comfortable with the teaching

EH explained that lecturer did not realise she was speaking this way, so she suggested solutions for the lecturer which were adopted and since then the lectures have had a very positive response from students

LS asked EH to have a chat with her regarding School Boards

CG added that it is not acceptable that EH was waiting

EH said she did not feel comfortable pushing in

CG replied that people do get carried away but student reps should still be treated the same as other attendees

EH noted that she would put a Student Say on regarding placement money

VV took JG report as read

LS shared JG update and gave JG update in absence

VV asked for any comments

None were forthcoming

VV asked EO for her update

EO said she was not able to make it to her School Board meeting but the report was given to the Dean of School who said some actions were taken

EO explained that there had been good reports from students regarding timetables and some discussion around whether online lectures could be changed to in person

EO expressed issues from Film students and the work she is doing to further support them

VV praised EO for the promising provision being put in place

VV asked for anything further

EO added that there were issues regarding deadlines but that she had discussed this with the Dean

EO ended by noting that everything else was positive feedback

VV thanked EO

Item 6 – Sabbatical Officer Reports

VV moved it Item 6

VV asked RW for her update

RW explained recent absence and said she will respond to emails in due course

RW covered her work on setting up the Sustainability Society with AK and steps towards #MakeTrinityGreener campaign

RW noted that she would be meeting with the SU Student Adviser and EGH soon to discuss mental health campaigns

RW informed Council that plastic waste in StUdio had been cut by 60%

RW asked LS to update her officer goals

Action: LS to update Black History Month goal to 'complete'

RW said that she is working with MJ on a few Disability History Month events

KHM asked RW about plans for International Women's Day in March and whether planning is happening before or after Christmas

RW responded that this will most likely be post-Christmas but that she has spoken to a few sports clubs about what they would like to do

KHM noted that she could get Dance involved as Social Secretary

KHM added that she wanted to fundraise for charity this year and asked RW to drop her an email

Action: RW to email KHM regarding International Women's Day

MJ informed Council of her upcoming Disability History Month event

MJ asked officers to share this

VV asked MJ to provide the link

CG said she had shared on Facebook

VV moved to CG officer goals

CG informed Council of her recent attendance at NUS Strategic Conference and the Times Higher Education Awards

CG explained that her main updates were new goals numbered 14-20

CG highlighted free transport to covid vaccine centres, Trinity pride, the name change project, a proposal to exec about new paid student role for student interviewers and student safety in Leeds

CG added that spiking numbers were dropping but this may be due to a lack of reporting

KHM asked if there are any police approved helplines for students who have experienced spiking

KHM added that the mental health appointment wait times are very long so is there anyone that students should be directed to

CG responded that if any students do have this problem then to ring the police and if they are not comfortable doing this then to get in contact with PCSOs

CG elaborated that the police have a dedicated phonenumber for this so that for the first day or two you do not need to go down to the police station

KHM asked for this phone number when CG has it

CG explained work on academic staff assessment

CG informed Council of work on gender-based discrimination and sexual violence with particular reference to placements and reporting

CG added that all her other goals were still in progress

VV thanked RW and CG for their hard work

MJ expressed disappointment that her automatic door Student Say had not passed the requirements

Council discussed putting this on Student Say again

MJ said she would put this on Student Say

Item 7 – Officer Updates

VV asked part-time officers to provide a quick verbal update and for next meeting this to be formalised

EGH said that she is having a meeting with SU Student Adviser for campaign actions to be put in place

AH informed Council that pronoun badges had arrived and these will be promoted

KHM told Council that she was still distributing sanitary pads and that she will be looking into self-defence classes

KHM added that she had been looking into apps to support those with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) and endometriosis and will be putting an idea on Student Say

EO said she had been meeting Course Reps who could not meet before

EH explained her work with students

MJ explained the purpose of her Disability History Month events

VV thanked officers for their work

Item 8 – Motions Debate

VV moved to Item 8

RW explained motion 041 – Cut Back on Amazon

RW explained the reasoning behind this including exploitation of workers' rights

RW noted the believes of the motion

RW ran through the resolves of the motion

CG noted that the SU are not a real living wage employer as stated in the motion

CG added that using Amazon would be at the discretion of General Manager

VV asked for vote on amendment to the policy on the living wage as SU do not currently do this

CG added that this should be amended to 'the SU support the living wage'

KHM asked what the alternative to using Amazon would be

RW responded using local businesses could be an alternative

RW expressed concern at the levels of packaging and waste that come with Amazon, as well as the CO2 emissions

CG added that because it is noted in the policy that there are explicit workers' rights issues that there needs to be clarification in the resolves that alternative sources will champion workers' rights

VV said that this needs some further thought before the next meeting and following a vote on amendments RW and CG will rewrite and come back

RW reiterated that the policy is not to get rid of Amazon but to reduce the usage of it

VV asked about the use of inflatables and whether they are reused

RW said this particular one was a prize

Council discussed reusing of purchases

VV asked Council to approve two amendments – one relating to living wage wording, and one related to workers' rights being included in the resolves

Council voted unanimously to approve amendments

RW moved on to motion 042 – Fairtrade and explained the notes, believes, and resolves

KHM asked if this was in the SU Shop or in StUdio as well

RW responded that this would be across services

VV moved to a vote

Majority of Council voted to approve the motion

Item 9 – AOB

LS updated Council on issues with the shuttle bus in JG absence

Action: CG to discuss with Simon Parker

LS asked council for video updates from the first semester

AH asked for an update from RW about rainbow laces

RW said she had been off work

RW asked if the forms had been sent out

KHM clarified that they had

RW said the campaign was taking place on 08/12/21

LS said she can look into ordering the laces the following day

VV thanked Council for their attendance