

LTSU Student Council Meeting

12/10/18

Present

Charles Isherwood (CI)

Jake Bainbridge (JB)

Nathan Bland (NB)

Chloe Tear (CT)

Sophie Sinclair (SS)

Lewis Benn (LB)

Daisy Speight (DS)

Emma Stevenson (ES)

In Attendance

Finn Northrop (FN)

Absent with Formal Apologies

Zoha Shah

Jessie Chalders

Absent

Emma Drinkwater

Rachael Chapman

Chelsey Grooby

Emma Riley

Item 1 – Welcome from Chair

NB welcomes council to the first council meeting of the year

Item 2 – Approval of minutes

Minutes of previous meeting are circulated.

CI comments he believes them to be an accurate reflection of previous meeting

Council votes to approve minutes of previous meeting

Item 3 – Matters Arising

NB introduced Catherine O'Connor (CO), a member of university staff, and explained to council that she had requested to speak to them about proposed reforms to the academic calendar

CO introduced some proposed changes to timetabling and the academic calendar in light of TEF

ES raised that she felt the issue of contact hour linked to the notion of Value for Money which she felt was important

CO further outlined plans to extend the teaching period on the academic calendar. She continued with proposed changes to placements which would entail them being put closer to the middle of the academic year. She posited that the changes primarily amounted to a re-ordering rather than a wholesale change.

JB raised the issue of BUCS and the timing of placements in relation to sports teams

CI commented that sports team members often requested Wednesday Afternoons off on their placements in order to suit their sporting commitments

ES believed that proposed changes were positive and would allow for more reflection on the part of students

DS also felt that the proposals were positive as often educational institutions were winding down at the time of current Leeds Trinity University placements

CT echoed this sentiment

CO highlighted a further change which would involve a move from a 2 semester system to a 3 term system

DS thought this was also a positive idea and raised the VfM agenda

JB articulated that students felt the current weighting model was unbalanced. He expressed that modules were often unevenly loaded throughout a year.

CI and CT both concurred

CI raised that in a meeting with a university member of staff he had discussed the possibility of more “soft” contact time for students as a way to boost contact hours

CO elaborated on the concept of “soft” contact time and “peer-to-peer learning”

JB felt positively about both “peer-to-peer learning” and “self-learning”

CI talked about “self-learning” methods and gave the example of lecturers timetabling in pre-planned catch-up or revision sessions in which students could pick the area of focus

CT noted that in her course she had a lot of opportunities for workshops and forms of “self-learning” but raised that this may not be possible in all courses, as some required a more conventional lecture style

CO agreed

[CO then left the meeting]

Item 4- SEC Elections

NB raised that SEC elections were open and encouraged council to vote in them. Noted that the election was opened for 24 hours.

Item 5 – Nominations

CI noted that nominations were still open for International Students Officer and Postgraduate Students Officer and encouraged officers to encourage friends in the applicable area to run

Item 6 – Sabbatical Officer Reports

JB gave a verbal report to council:

-Online Booking service now available for SU Advice

- Fresher's Week, JB was positive about this, ensured there was a diversity of events during fresher's week

- Said he was supporting all BUCS teams

ES was positive about the online booking service working in conjunction with the drop-in sessions

ES raised with JB the issue of Give It A Go promotion

CI asked whether council felt it was a good idea to note that GIAG should get more promotion

LB noted that he got most info on GIAG via word of mouth

Council agreed more promotion would be positive

NB raised the issue of staff protocol and conflict of interest. He believed that whilst the previous discussion had been fine, it was important to be aware of conflicts of interest when students were both staff members and officers.

Council agreed with NBs sentiments

CI gave a verbal report to Council:

CI highlighted the opening of the new SU shop – both a positive for students and helped diversify the revenue stream of the union

ES questioned whether the university was likely to restrict funding to the union in response to CI mentioning importance of diverse revenue streams

CI explained that he had been faced with a lot of casework, but also explained that he was now passing all academic advice issues to SU Advice service

ES queried whether the SU needed an additional advice worker

CI felt the current situation was manageable

CI asked council what they wanted to see from his and JB's reports

CI offered to bring both his SEEC report and a regularly updated copy of his and JB's goals

Council agreed with this idea

NB highlighted the dual role of the sabs on council – both as contributing members and as people to be held accountable

Council agreed with CI's proposal to bring both SEEC reports and goals

A/P – FN to source SEEC reports and CI and JB goals in advance of every meeting and circulate to council

Item 6 – Motions for Debate

NB outlined the process of proposing policy via student say

001 – Free Periods

ES introduced the motion

FN informed council that the shop, in light of the policy, was now selling Sanitary Products for the lowest value possible without it becoming loss-making

CI raised that for the shop to make a loss on a product at this early stage would require a decision at Board

CI proposed to amend the motion as follows:

‘ To delete resolves 3 and 4 and replace with “To sell sanitary products in the SU shop at the lowest possible price which is not loss-making” and to amend resolves 5 to read “To explore the viability of a system to distribute free sanitary products in such a way that does not lose the union money” ‘

Council voted to accept the amendment (unanimous)

ES asked CI what the lobbying efforts would entail with regards to the sanitary bins and bathroom dispensers

CI explained that he would invite ES to all relevant meetings with University staff

ES proposed the motion be amended as follows:

‘ To add Union Resolves 6 to read “ To mandate the proposer of the motion to join the President at relevant lobbying meetings with the university” ‘

Council voted in favour of the amendment (unanimous)

NB called for a vote on the motion as amended

Council voted to approve the motion (unanimous)

002 – Cut the (Placement) Costs

CI introduced the motion and explained the current situation with placement costs

CI discussed reasons for a new wave of optimism

CI raised the wish to amend the motion in line with recent discussions with University staff

CI proposed to amend the motion as follows:

‘ To amend union resolves 1 to read “ to lobby the university to provide each student at Leeds Trinity University with a minimum of £1000 over the duration of their degree in order to cover the cost of placements” ‘

JB was positive, both about the motion in general and the proposed amendment

Council voted to approve the amendment (unanimous)

ES asked if there was anything council could do to support CI

CI discussed a diversity of campaign tactics

Council voted to approve the motion as amended (unanimous)

003 – Assistive Technology on Campus

CT introduced her motion on Assistive Technology, highlighting the in particular the age of the current equipment

JB mentioned that the issue had been raised at the most recent SEEC meeting

NB summarised the resolves at CT's request

CT raised that she had also managed to acquire a list of what was currently available, at CI's request she read the list to council

Council voted for the motion (unanimous)

AOB

Unknown raised that they wished to see both qualitative and quantitative feedback though the student say Perspex boxes

CI raised some of the items currently up for voting on the Student Say hub

JB mentioned that he was particularly interest in the microwave motion

LB commented that he felt microwaves would be beneficial to all students and would save them money

ES articulated the benefits microwaves could have particularly for mature students

Council noted that the microwaves had already passed the required threshold for a motion, and therefore all agreed that Charles should do what he could on the issue alongside a motion being brought to council

LB raised some research he had done with regards to LGBT* people in sport motion which would be going to the next council

LB highlighted that he had recently attended a sport team social in his role as LGBT* officer

CI mentioned the role of Lad Culture in relation to LGBTphobia in sport

DS raised the unique problems faced by closeted sports team members

FN informed council that he LB and JB would be meeting to prepare a motion on the issue for the next council

All council voiced their support and willingness to campaign alongside LB

CT raised the issue of the kind of training being given to staff who work Open Days

FN circulated the list of campaign days/weeks/months and asked councillors to think which they might like to be involved with

CI thanked the chair

NB closed the meeting

