

Student Council

**07/10/21**

*Present:*

Abigail Holden – AH

Aleksandra Krysa – AK

Chelsey Grooby – CG

Emily-Grace Holden -EGH

Emmanuella Osei – EO

Evie Hudson – EH

Jasmine Grewal – JG

Kelsey Howard-Matthews – KHM

Molly Jopling – MJ

Rachel Ward – RW

Vinay Verma – VV

*Staff present:*

Lisa Burton – LB

Lucy Smith – LS

*Absent with formal apologies:*

Bibi Aasia – BA

Sabiyah Zaheer – SB

*Absent without formal apologies:*

Kyle Hodgkins – KH

Mahbub Ahmed – MA

Priya Saluja – PS

### **Item 1 – Welcome from the Chair**

VV welcomed officers to the first Student Council of the year

VV noted attendance log and explained the role of this

VV moved to appoint Vice Chair of Council

VV explained role and asked for interest

No one came forward

VV said he would return to this at the end of the meeting

VV asked if anyone was interested in sitting on Student Executive Committee (SEC)

VV asked if anyone interested in putting themselves forward

VV asked LS to explain

LS gave overview of SEC

AH put herself forward

VV thanked AH

*Action: VV asked LS to send email with vacancy regarding SEC*

### **Item 2 – Approval of minutes**

VV moved to Item 2

VV explained to Council how minute approval would work going forward

### **Item 3 – Matters Arising**

VV moved to Item 3

VV asked all Council members to introduce themselves, their role, and their aims for the year

RW introduced self and remit of sustainability, mental health and wellbeing, and sports and societies

CG introduced self and remit of representation, democracy and academic experience

EH introduced self and noted her aims for student placement experiences

JG introduced self and explained focus on feedback for lecturers and sport courses in SSHS

AK introduced self informed Council of focus on creating zero waste shop and making sure that the campus is generally more green

KHM introduced self and noted that main focus was improving empowerment of women on site through safety and body positivity

AH introduced self and explained goals around pronouns and gender being on University systems

AH expressed desire to build communities over year

EO introduced self and explained her focus was to listen to the students in her school and act on anything she can improve

MJ introduced self and noted focus on students having someone that they can talk to

EGH introduced self and explained close working with officers to improve student mental health

VV thanked Council

VV introduced self and expressed support of Council in making sure progress happens through scrutinisation in a timely matter

LS introduced self and explained role

LB introduced self and explained she would support the actions of Council

LB added her support of FTOs with strategic direction of SU

VV said it was great to hear the direction of Council and will aim to meet the needs of students

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

VV directed Council to Item 4 and explained the policy tracker

VV discussed how actions on existing policies work

VV described how assigned reps and progress columns work

LS explained how reps are assigned through the resolves of motions

VV explained action tracker

VV explained attendance log

CG added to this

#### **Item 5 – School Rep Reports**

VV summarised Item 5, School Rep reports, and noted that this was a new addition for the AY

LS added that Course Rep recruitment was going well

VV explained how reports might work in Council

CG noted that those reports will also go to Academic Board so any trends across schools are noted

#### **Item 6 – Sabbatical Officer Reports**

VV moved to Item 6

VV praised the new format for the AY

CG explained how officer goals worked

CG summarised the topics covered and explained that responding to student needs would be a priority

CG noted that this will be added to over the year

CG explained volunteer experience related goals

CG covered impact reporting for Student Council and how they can keep track of their work through active notes

CG moved to improve inclusivity topic

CG explained decolonising the curriculum and what this means

CG moved to explain academic and liberation societies

CG asked LS to explain Freedom of Speech Policy

LS summarised current Bill going through parliament and SU reponse

JG asked how this would interact with societies such as the anti-abortion society at Warwick

LB discussed the difference about having safe debates on certain topics to areas such as hate speech

JG asked if Freedom of Speech explained where the line was

LB responded by explaining the list of groups that NUS hold where there is not opportunity to hold a safe debate

LB affirmed that it is about the safety of the people in the room to be able to have a healthy debate about it with regards to anti-abortion group

JG expressed opinion that any group where students feel unsafe should not be allowed

LB said that it depends on the community

EH and CG explained this particular society may have religious links

CG further explained issues

LB noted that in terms of the Freedom of Speech Bill, CG and LS are aiming to ensure that the viewpoint of students at Leeds Trinity are covered in that bill

LB explained there would be consultation around this

LB added that no decision has been made yet due to the complex nature and that the Bill is being held up due to amendments

CG moved to goals around increasing BAME representation within the SU, noting the removal of barriers for student staff

CG moved to responding to student needs and explained each goal

CG explained how SU on Tour used to work

CG informed Council of her role in the Learning, Teaching, and Student Experience Committee

VV expressed excitement at year ahead

RW explained the topics covered in her goals

RW noted successful Freshers' events and student engagement

RW explained that she will be working with the Learning Hub and placement teams to support students to learn new skills

RW informed Council of the increased number of student societies

RW and VV discussed new Musical Society

RW noted BUCS and the current issues with Women's Hockey

RW said Islamic Society and African Caribbean Society were both adopted

RW explained that she is working closely with EHG to map out advice services

RW informed Council of her work on the Mental Health Charter

RW explained climate emergency goals

RW informed Council about work on sanitary products

VV asked RW to elaborate

VV noted that the update from the previous Vice President was that funding had been approved

RW said no handover from previous VP due to Covid

KHM noted that she had distributed free products in toilets

Council discussed where sanitary products were around campus

Council discussed status of sanitary product policies

VV asked RW about the menstrual cups campaign from the previous year

VV asked if LTU had done their part

VV asked if the dispensers have gone up in the toilets

CG noted that this was not the responsibility of RW at present

CG added that Council can take this up

Council discussed which campaign RW should take up

RW said her focus would be putting sustainable products in toilets and menstrual cups in the SU Shop

VV summarised that we have two policies to bring together – issue with LTU not putting up dispensers and sustainable period products in SU Shop

*Action: RW to discuss menstrual products in toilets with LTU and also implement Bleed Green campaign*

VV asked Council to vote on combining these two policies (028 – Menstrual Products in all Bathrooms and 032 – Bleed Green – Menstrual Cups)

\*Majority of Council voted to approve\*

RW returned to run down of goals

RW explained issues with recycling bins on campus

RW noted her work during Recycle Week

Council discussed who still takes plastic bottle tops for recycling

RW added that planters had arrived for a food growing opportunity on campus which should be maintained by a society

AK added that one of her goals was to have a Sustainability Society for gardening

*Action: AK and RW to work together on creating and maintaining a Sustainability Society*

AK also expressed interest in working on refillable items in the Shop and working on zero waste and sustainable products

*Action: AK and RW to meet before next Student Council and discuss who will be doing which action*

RW explained the link between the Swap Shop and current motion around LTU Marketplace

JG added that Left Bank in Headingley does something similar

Council discussed positive aspects of having a swap shop and the waste involved with leaving as a student

EH suggested having an incentive as well

KHM asked for clarification around the items involved

RW clarified and explained links with other Leeds Universities

RW moved to reducing plastic waste goals

EH said that StUdio still use plastic sauce pots

*Action: RW will meet with BP about reducing plastic in commercials*

RW said regular meetings with JE to support LTU on sustainability strategy

RW moved to inclusive student experience goals

RW noted work on a Zero Tolerance policy for sports clubs and societies

VV expressed the importance of this

CG explained that SU noted that there was a gap in policy around zero tolerance

RW said this will be good for club promotion and also links in with campaigns, moving away from the tokenistic

RW ran through further goals and Student Say ideas

RW noted work with BHM and LTU

CG further explained BHM projects

RW explained lack of accessibility in atrium for blind students so will be working on accessibility around campus

LB thanked Council

*\*LB left the meeting\**

VV moved to questions

JG asked a question about the Zero Tolerance policy and whether this will cover issues like microaggressions and cultural appropriation

RW said that it will tie into LTU policy and will cover all forms of racism

CG explained that it arose after discussions around antisemitism

VV asked if there will be a consultation

CG said it will go to focus groups and will also be taken through Student Council and Trustee Board

JG thanked CG

CG also noted that NUS have information that will tie in

MJ asked if she can help with automated door in StUdio

RW said she wants to work with MJ on this and making the campus more accessible

RW said would be good for MJ and RW to have meeting with BP

RW added that it would be helpful for MJ to put this idea on Student Say

MJ agreed and thanked RW

VV thanked MJ

*Action: MJ to put automated door idea on Student Say and encourage voting*

Council discussed working together on all the goals

CG explained process of being actively involved with meetings if Council want to

RW said can we should show how Council can make a big impact

*Action: Between now and the next meeting, members look at CG and RW goals, deciding which they would like to be involved with*

*Action: CG asked Council to get in touch with if they wanted to work on anything, CC'ing LS and VV in email*

### **Item 7 – Motions Debate**

VV moved to Item 7

VV moved to 035 - LTU Marketplace

VV read Union Resolves section on behalf of student submitter

VV asked Council if they approved this motion

\*Council voted unanimously in favour\*

### **Item 8 – AOB**

VV asked members to encourage students to put ideas on Student Say

CG offered to become Vice Chair

VV discussed socials with Council and noted plans around Christmas meal

EH explained plan for Christmas meal

*Action: VV to come back next meeting to propose deal to Council for social*

Council discussed social plans

CG suggested that the end of year social would include handover for incoming Officers

VV thanked Council for attending and contributing

VV closed the meeting