

Student Council

30/11/20

Present:

Beth Robinson - BR

Briony English - BE

Chris Dow - CD

Chelsey Grooby - CG

Huba Ali – HA

Joseph Nelson – JN

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

Absent with Formal Apologies:

Jasmine Grewal – JG

Laura Pickering – LP

Absent without Formal Apologies:

Dorina Glejdan - DG

Item 1 – Welcome from the Chair

VV welcomed councillors to the meeting

Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

VV asked council 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 was anything council wanted to raise

OB responded that she had received an email back from Duncan Martin confirming that there will be timetabling across courses from next semester

Joseph Nelson entered meeting

VV thanked OB for update

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 Council on feedback from Estates and Executive Team

CD noted that Len Windle will put forward short- and long-term proposals to Council, hopefully before Christmas

CD said that when this happens BE, CD, and LS will meet to discuss and update Council at the next meeting

VV asked for an update on GNTs in StUdio

CD responded that this should not be a problem and that Ben Parker is waiting for confirmation from LW

VV hoped there will be a better picture in the new year regarding this

Action: Update on policy 024 at January meeting

VV asked for an update on policy 025 – Staff Members wearing Pronoun Badges

CD responded that the proposal had been sent to the Executive Team and that Ruth Wilson (Student Engagement) was going to present this to the Leadership Team with her support

CD asked CG where this proposal would go following this

CG responded that it would be the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee

CD noted that the Exec seemed happy with the proposal but wanted it to go through EDI as well for approval to ensure suitability

CD explained that this was promising progress, and that EDI are to meet in December

VV asked if the resolves of this policy would be seen at the end of the calendar or academic year

MT entered meeting

CD responded that they would be in place at the end of the academic year but that an idea of progress will be possible by Christmas

Action: Update on policy 025 at January meeting

VV asked for an update on policy 026 – Mental Health Signposting Coasters in StUdio

BR responded that meeting with CD had to be rescheduled due to work but they had spoken over email

CD noted that we do have mental health signposting coasters in StUdio with LTU and SU services on so is a case of extending these

BR noted that the proposed idea was submitted before the charity ones had been implemented in StUdio so there was some confusion but this would be rectified when BR and CD meet

VV suggested what was important was that they were visually attractive with the information presented concisely

CD suggested they should be more student friendly and if new coasters weren't implemented then there would be increased signposting in other ways

Action: Update on policy 026 at January meeting

VV asked for an update on policy 027 – Update Heritage Halls

CG told Council that there was not much of an update since the last meeting as the financial statements of the University have been pushed back to January because of Covid

CG noted that since the Council agenda had gone out there had been plans shared to update Kirkstall Hall and that Health and Safety is a key priority

CG said that when we return in January it will be a case of writing out what they expect to see and offering a long-term plan (3-4 years) so will benefit future students to the university

VV was glad that conversations regarding Health and Safety were at the forefront of discussions

Action: Update on policy 027 at February meeting

VV asked for an update on policy 028 – Menstrual Products in All Bathrooms

CD responded that he was waiting on funding from the University

CD updated Council on issues with Covid and how to respond to these; the University are happy to move forward but want to make sure that this is done safely

VV noted two obstacles, namely safety and funding said

Action: Correspondence to relevant University staff stating the importance of the campaign and setting out a timescale whereby the project is running by the end of January

VV asked for an update on policy 029 – More Washers on Campus

CG responded that, similarly to policy 027, we are waiting to find out what the financial situation is in January

CG outlined different solutions for these proposals

VV asked if they could provide a laundry room in each accommodation when undertaking renovations

CG said students have raised this but it would be much more expensive and less sustainable to have lots of new buildings rather than one block

CG noted that she was looking into deals for students with local launderettes

VV asked if there were many in the local area

CG responded that there were a few in Horsforth

Action: Update on policy 029 in February alongside policy 027 update

VV asked for update on #SuccessStories

CG updated Council on actions and said this should be seen on social media before Christmas

Action: Review of this campaign in January

VV asked for an update on policy 031 – Provide Sunflower Lanyards

CD responded that he was meeting with RP and LS tomorrow

RP reiterated this

Action: Update on policy 031 in January

VV asked for an update on policy 032 – Bleed Green – Menstrual Cups

CD responded that the SU were looking into sourcing cups for the shop

VV asked if these will be sold at cost price

CD said that various options were being looked at including handing some out for free

VV asked if there were any charities or companies endorsing this who could support

CD did not know of any

Action: Update on policy 032 in January

VV asked for an update on policy 033 – SU to Ban Single-Use Plastic Freebies

CD updated Council on the proposal which had been to the Trustee Board; they said yes in principle but with a few amendments to make which CD will work on with LS this week

VV asked for an update on policy 001 – Free Periods

CD noted how this links to other policies on sustainable products and menstrual products

VV suggested that in future Council receive updates on all aspects of sustainable menstrual products at the same time

Action: VV to discuss format of action tracker with LS

JN asked what alterations the Trustees had asked for regarding policy 033

CD responded that it was around the use of language such as 'ethical' and whether this would elicit a negative response from companies

JN suggested that we could move to language more like 'sustainable'

CD noted that he had not spoken to LS about it but that they were going to look at ways to rewrite it

JN said that as long as it doesn't lose the character of what was being put forward by Council initially and thanked CD for his work on this

VV asked for an update on policy 002 – Cut the (Placement) Costs

CG explained that there was not much in the way of an update as the University were not sure as of yet where students were being placed and what allowances each course will be getting

CG aims to make arrangements with the placement officer to see what allowances there are and if additional funds can be pushed for all courses

Action: Update on policy 002 in January

VV moved to policy 004 – LGBT+ Inclusivity in Sport

CD told Council that Stonewall's Rainbow Laces campaign would usually run at the SU this week but there are no sports teams due to Covid

CD explained that instead this will be launched in February during LGBT+ History Month and will tie in with other campaigns such as Show Racism the Red Card

VV expressed that the SU should do something to mark LGBT History Month

CD said he will put in plans with BE to do so

VV suggested some communications reaching out to people who are not 'out' around being comfortable with yourself

Item 5 – Sabbatical Officer Reports

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

CG noted the areas already discussed

CG covered updates on Course Reps, cutting costs, hidden course costs, and timetabling

JN inquired about hidden course costs and expressed concern that some students might have to spend more to study from home

CG asked if JN was referring to digital poverty

JN responded that he was

CG said CD will have a better insight but as far as she was aware, anyone who doesn't have access to suitable laptop has been given one by University

CG noted no negative feedback to the SU thus far and expressed this is always a priority if it does arise

JN said he was happy that there is support available to those who need it

CG continued to update on goals including volunteering opportunities, access to library texts, the University gaining Bronze award in the REC

VV asked for clarification on the awarding of Bronze to LTU

CG responded that we the University had achieved Bronze and were aiming for Silver with support from SU

CG noted the lectures she was attending regarding race equality

CG moved to questions

CG updated Council on the testing site opened on campus for Covid tests

VV asked if using Lateral Flow testing

CG confirmed

CG explained test process and the positive impact on student staff

VV asked if Council could create a vlog showing the testing process to remove possible anxiety

CG expressed support for this idea and would speak to SU staff regarding it

VV thanked and asked if there were any further comments or questions

RM said she was happy to help out with vlog and put anything on SU account

CG thanked and said that would be really useful

VV moved to CD goals

CD took goals as read

CD updated on various goals including the freebie policy, moving towards a carbon neutral campus, rent relief campaign, GP registration, and Headingley alleyway

CD moved to questions

None were forthcoming

VV thanked the officers for all the work

Item 6 – Decisions on Policy due to Expire

VV moved to item 6

VV moved to policy 008 – Putting Students in Control of their Health – GP Policy

VV asked for a quick summary from CD

CD explained that the first stage of this was completed last year, but that the second stage was national (dual registration at two GP surgeries)

VV moved to a vote

Council voted unanimously to retain policy

VV moved to policy 009 – Student Council Faces

CG explained these were not up this year due to Covid

CG thanked LS for work on website and social media publicising officers

CG said this will be carried forward every year and was completed at the time

VV moved to vote

The majority of Council voted to retain the policy

Item 7 – Motions Debate

VV asked for an update on policy 030 – Captioned Videos and Podcasts

CG explained that she had spoken to Disability Services who noted there were programmes put in place regarding subtitles

CG said that staff time has been focused on the testing site so this has been less of a priority

Action: Update on policy 030 in January or February meeting

VV asked for update on Student Say idea 'All lectures recorded'

CG responded that all lectures should now be recorded but in the case that they weren't she was handling on a case-by-case basis and speaking to lecturers

CG updated Council on communications in January to remind all teaching staff to record lectures

Action: Update on this progress in January

Item 8 – AOB

VV asked LS about lack of Student Say ideas coming through at this meeting

LS explained that while there were ideas submitted, they did not receive enough votes to become motions

CG said there was usually a drop at this time of year and Council would probably see another spike in January

CG thanked Council for being involved in Student Say so far

JN gave an update on PGR mental health group which is now occurring on a regular basis and has been positive

VV explained Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer roles

VV asked councillors to approve Peter Robertson (NUS) as the Returning Officer for the 2021 elections and Lucy Smith as Deputy Returning Officer

VV moved to vote

Council voted unanimously to approve

VV noted that he was no longer able to sit on Academic Board due to time constraints

VV asked if there were any Council members who would like to sit on the Board instead

VV noted that if anyone has any questions they can contact LS

CG expressed that she was happy to set up a regular meeting to support students attending Academic Board

JN responded that he was happy to do so depending on time

VV and CG explained time constraints

JN said he would sit on Academic Board for the foreseeable

VV and CG thanked JN

VV thanked Council for all their hard work

VV added that at the next meeting he would like to get an update on everyone's work and what they're hoping to achieve for the rest of the year

VV asked if there were any other updates

None were forthcoming

VV closed the meeting