

MEETING OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL
Thursday 21st February 2019

PRESENT: **Number: 26**
 As in Appendix A.

MINUTES: K Macintyre (KM)

APOLOGIES: Ed Comm – Health and Society Rep (SW), Ed Comm – FAST (AR),

1. AGM as concluded prior to this meeting.

Non-Councillor members were, at this point invited to remain at observers for the Student Council meeting and the opportunity was taken for a break in proceeding before commencement of the Council meeting.

Council commenced at 18h45.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

A Declaration of Conflict of interest was received from Natasha Weasley for the Vote of No Confidence against Jack Hill, during which a replacement Vice Chair would be required at that point in the proceedings.

3. Appointment of Trustees

The President gave a brief summary on the appointment of external Trustees who are invited to meet with an Appointments Committee composed of the Sabbatical Officers, the CEO and the University Trustee who after interview, make recommendations to the Student Council.

This process had taken place and two candidates were recommended. Julie Coleman was recommended as an External Trustee whilst Hamer Francis was recommended as Senior External Trustee.

Each candidate was invited to give a brief summary of their skills and experience and how their appointment might benefit the Students' Union.

The first candidate was Julie Coleman who has a breadth of experience in Higher Education, including Vice-Chancellor of Leicester University.

Questions for Julie included what her opinion on welfare and safety speaking to staff at the University and the Students' Union. Julie replied that it is a tricky balance to find for every member of staff to be open and welcoming. She said it was important to note that not all staff have skills to deal with all situations but they should know who to signpost people towards others with appropriate skills. The issue is finding the balance between staff who are over willing and under-skilled and those who are too busy.

The second candidate was Hamer Francis who comes from a strong manufacturing business-related background with a wealth of commercial experience.

Questions for Hamer included thoughts as to whether he would be able to transfer those manufacturing, commercial skills to a charity based concern to which he replied his skills and experience were transferable to any business, be it charitable or not. Hamer did mention his surprise at the novelty that a Students' Union has its' own nightclub. Hamer made the point that aside from his business acumen, he felt that people were the key to running successful businesses and that if people can be encouraged and engaged then it is easier to be successful.

At this point the Chair declined any more questions. The Trustee candidates were asked to leave Council at this point, although invited to return as observers should they so wish after the vote had been taken.

The Chair moved to vote on appointment of Julie Coleman as external Trustee.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 1 Abstentions: 0

Vote Result: Proposal to appoint Julie Coleman carried.

The Chair moved to vote on appointment of Hamer Francis as Senior External Trustee.

Votes For: 26 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Vote Result: Proposal to appoint Hamer Francis carried.

4. **Apologies Received.**
As per Appendix A below.

Quoracy

The meeting was deemed quorate with 26 Council members present from a possible 36 members.

5. **Approval of the minutes held on 17th January 2019.**

The Mature Students' Officer raised an issue with the minutes and requested a change at section 8(l) as follows:

8(l) **LGBTQ Officer**

At this point there were general questions raised as to censures for non-submission of reports and non-attendance.

The "Chair requested that the LGBTQ Officer" and Disabled Students Officer be censured pending confirmation of attendance and report submission.

The Chair moved to vote on this change as requested by the Mature Students' Officer.

Votes For: 26

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Vote Result: Proposal to change minutes carried forward unanimously.

The Chair then moved to accept the minutes of 17th January as amended.

Votes For: 25

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Vote Result: Proposal to change minutes carried forward unanimously.

6. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda.

None raised.

7. Votes of No Confidence

At this point the Chair asked Members to keep their points factual and impersonal.

The Chair advised that a number of votes of no confidence had been received it was noted that some of the recipients were either not students here at the University or were not members of the Students' Union and therefore the proposals had been withdrawn from proceedings by the Chair.

7.1 Disabled Officer – no vote taken as resigned from post.

7.2 LGBTQ Officer

****During this discussion, there were points raised that related to other, external events that occurred outside of Council. Due to the contentious nature of the comments, I, the Chair of Student Council have made the decision for these comments to not be made public. In the interests of fairness and openness, should any person wish to question and/or receive information regarding this, I would ask that you contact su.democracy@northampton.ac.uk ****

As a declaration of interest had previously been declared for this point, the Chair asked Members for nominations for Deputy Chair. The AU Chair was nominated.

The Chair moved to vote to accept the nomination of the AU Chair as the Deputy Chair for the motion.

The Chair then moved to accept the minutes of 17th January as amended.

Votes For: 25

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Vote Result: Proposal to accept AU Chair as Deputy Chair.

The proposer for this motion was invited to give a two-minute summation as follows:.

“This officer is one of the few liberation officers who has had the entire month to dedicate towards his cause to which he has managed to one fill or at least he has announced a poll for one film. I just don’t think that is quite enough, I mean for an entire opportunity like that.

Most people would make more use of it. So in regards to attendance, Exec meetings, during the Exec meetings there could have been a request for funds for a Winter Gala, there were no requests made. There could have been a request for funds for anything to do with the LGBTQ+ month, no requests were made again. In fact there is very little attendance – the only request that has been made has been for the NUS conference which was originally meant for 11 people, which during the week dropped down to 10; only two people attended the first meeting. There has been query over tickets on that one although that was nothing major. So I witnessed two people requesting access to the LGBT Society who identified within the category and they waited for an entire month for a response to which they had not received any from the Society or the Officer. In fact they even requested at the Engine Shed to form a new society called the LGBT Society as they believed that that Society no longer ran. There are concerns in which numerous student who are of that particular category are not being represented; they are not being supported. There are estimates of around 4000 LGBTQ students. I’ve met several of them and I do not feel they are being supported. I’ve feel as though are being left abandoned and I don’t think that is appropriate.

We are not entirely sure what is going on, to be honest.”

Clarification was requested as to whether this VNC was being considered against the LGBTQ Officer or against the LGBTQ Society.

The proposer clarified that the motion was against the LGBTQ Officer.

It was asked that reference to the LGBTQ Society and attendance to the Society be removed from the motion.

The proposer said:

“It was also applied to the Officer as it was done by direct email to the Officer and the Society so in my regard if you have an issue with the Society you go to the Officer”.

The LGBTQ Officer replied

“Right. I have no messages on either my emails or any of my Facebooks that have not been answered. I can like literally show you that on my phone

The Chair then invited the LGBTQ Officer to reply:

LGBTQ Officer: *"My job is not just to write reports and plan events as a liberation officer. My job never ends. I can't go home and turn off my activism. My job affects my day to day life. A couple of gay friends of mine who were recently beaten up in Northampton Town for holding hands. I have other friends who physically do not feel comfortable holding hands on this campus. I myself experienced a hate crime in front of Avenue SU while Karaoke was happening in first year where a student decided to scream hateful and abusive language at me in front of about 50 other people and threaten me with violence. I reported this to the Union in great detail and chased it up for months. Nothing ever came of this. This student still attends this Uni. He has not even been given a slap on the wrist despite the fact that there are cameras outside of Avenue SU. I stopped eating.*

I didn't want to leave the house, I didn't feel safe. Queer Brunch and Sophie were my only safe haven. Unfortunately, an often reported side effect of being LGBT is depression because we experience violence, oppression and hatred every single day. In my case, mental health has ruined my life the last ten years. I've been in and out of hospital. Some of the Sabb officers actually came to visit me in hospital. But I believe that it is my duty as a queer person to speak up for the voices for the minority and the oppressed. Am I the most organised person in the world? No. Is my timing amazing? No. I haven't attended a single class since September because my mental health has been so bad but I have not stopped doing my job. I have been in contact with teachers every day asking me how they can support their students, messaging my students. Organising Queer Brunch. I have the backing of 14 universities including NUS Trans Campaign on a national level as well as sixteen full and part time officers and Trans and non-binary officers as well as 41 signatures that condemn the VNC against me

However I'd like to take a moment to apologise to my community who I have let down. I'd like to think I have been very transparent with updates on my mental health and have frequently been messaging on the group chat, meeting up with students and they know the situation I'm in. I can only apologise profusely for this matter but at the end of the day my community is who I support and that's who I am here for. My community, if they want to hold be accountable then they can hold me accountable. "

The Chair then asked if there were any questions.

BME Officer: *"It is understandable being an LGBTQ, my bad, I'm sorry. But I understand, however you have a fiduciary obligation for the people in your society and if you feel that your mental health isn't up to it then you shouldn't be in that position. Take care of yourself first. You have to be in a position of change and you can't create that change. Maybe it's best that you step down.*

LGBTQ Officer: *"I still believe I'm in a good enough position to support my students. I'm still dealing with them on a day to day basis. The only thing I will apologise for profusely is the lack of events but I have been organising people, organising events' I've been asking to book out rooms. I've been turned down several times for booking of rooms. As for the Winter Gala, that wasn't ever written in stone that I had to hold it. I asked my students if they wanted to do it. I didn't have enough response back to say they wanted to do it. I tried to book rooms. I approached charities in the local area to see if they would fund it. I'm going to run a Pride of Northampton because we don't have one. That is part of my job. At the end of the day, I still think I support my students. I do that every day, non-stop."*

Socs Rep: *"Do you have evidence for everything you've been trying to do?"*

LGBTQ Officer: *"Yep. I do."*

BME Officer: *"I have another question. So how come students feel left out?"*

LGBTQ Officer: *"What students feel left out? I have no students message me saying they feel left out"*

BME Officer: *"Probably cos, they feel left out. Cos they don't know who the Officer is. How can they expect to..."*

LGBTQ Officer: *"I have people walk up to me on campus frequently because they know who I am. People are aware I am the Officer. I have people who aren't even part of the LGBT Soc message me regarding LGBT Soc."*

Socs Chair: *"I have multiple, members of our Society who ask me – this isn't partly about the LGBTQ Society but also about you as an Officer, as an LGBTQ officer that they've not heard anything about the Society have heard nothing about what's being done with the SU as..."*

AU Rep: *"I'd just like to say that this is not about the Society"*

Socs Chair: *"No, I know. No, I'm not going to say about the Society, I'm saying they've come to me about the Officer. They are concerned, as am I as to what the SU is doing as a whole. They ask so many questions and obviously, me as just a President of a Society I haven't got those answers for them."*

LGBTQ Officer: *"I think I you look on the LGBTQ Officer Facebook and on the Society Facebook you'll see that every couple of weeks I am posting an update explaining what's going on, explaining why there haven't been events, how mental health is taking a toll at the moment, why I am getting other people to help me with the work".*

Ed Comm Chair: *"I'm not aware of what is going on. I feel like the level of information that is put out, if there are events that are going on, if there is as many there was last year I am not aware of them. I do not know what is going on. I have no clue what is going on regarding LGBTQ+ representation at this University. I am, quite frankly, in the dark and I'm a member of Council and I'm in the dark. So what was said about the general LGBTQ+ community at the University, if I don't know, what are they going to know."*

Socs Rep: *"The VNC is against your role as an officer. As you can see up there, there are other people who are getting exactly the same treatment because there has just been poor performance as an Officer. I myself as well, I'm not part of the LGBTQ community but I literally haven't seen any events. I haven't seen any awareness for the LGBTQ community. I know it's such a massive issue and I think that in that role that you should put a clear presence on campus especially."*

VP-UD *"All of your students...."*

The Chair then asked that the discussion did not descend into personal matters or attacks.

LGBTQ Officer: *"Also, I'd like to comment that as a Trans person, like, it's for me to comment on what is transphobic. There's things, that is not for me as a white to comment on what is racist. That is not my job."*

President *"The thing is I think it's really important to really not get personal in this. I think that's one of the key fundamental points of it. I think Northampton is a really, really challenging place to be. Not the University but the place in general as a member of the LGBTQ community or actually as a trans student; it is a really challenging place to be and my rationale for support for the proposal are on the grounds that our students deserve better frankly and you know the struggles they've gone through and the bit for me, I think, on a personal level I struggle with, if there is anything I could have done for you or for your community and I've been to saying to Gem, this is probably one of the hardest things, we would have done anything and I think you know, if you had rang me up and said Raf I need you to do this, I think you know I would have been the first one. Raf I need you to do an event. I would've been there and that's the thing that sort of hits me the hardest because I truly care about the community because they get a really bad deal. They get a really bad deal."*

Ed Comm Chair: *"I'd just like to say that my own personal, what I may do personally and be is not relevant to this. That was clarified at the start of this section of the meeting and so I would disagree with the thing as that is irrelevant anyway. What you say about being blocked that I irrelevant. I've not seen anything around campus. I did last year. I did see publicity materials around campus, around Avenue, around Park last year. I've not seen any of that this year. I've not seen anything on the screens, so the fact that I am blocked from your Facebook is irrelevant to the matter because I've not seen it in other forms which I did last year."*

Non Cncllor: *"One of the reasons for the lack of work was due to your mental health as you said. Would you say the Students' Union or the University have done enough to help you with that and if yes, what have they done? If not, what do you think the Student Union, that as an Officer that you as a student could have done better especially as you now have a newly elected VP-Welfare also"*

LGBTQ Officer: *"I think it's really difficult because even the Sabb roles have agreed with me that my job is not a part time job. I'm not doing this - I'm trying to do a full-time job on part-time hours. Like it bothers me, if I spent every hour in the day only doing my job, I still would not have enough time to do it and I think there is nowhere near enough support, within the Uni and within the SU. Holding coffee meetings, as amazing as they are, if I am having bad day and physically cannot get out of bed, and dress myself it's not going to help me to go to a coffee meeting. We need to help students with more worse mental health conditions than they are feeling a little isolated from their friends. Others Uni's have support systems in place."*

I think it is one thing outside of Council to say yes we are running these events to mental health people and then in our own Council, turn our backs on students who need us and not give any support or any help or one person to even to reach out to me knowing I have severe mental health problems."

I mean like, Jack, Jack are you doing alright? Like, it takes 5 minutes of your day. We have to make consideration for these kinds of things. Its discrimination. We don't discriminate against people with disabilities. It should be any different with people with mental illness. My mental illness is classed as a physical disability."

VP-ED *"Mine is more of a statement. I am genuinely – Jack you know I love you to bits. I'm quite hurt and disappointed actually that we could have done great things this year. You know I've messaged you and I have said to you – look, we have got great opportunities to do x, y and z and I really needed your expertise this year. I really did. We had a sexual harassment policy that had to go through Senate that I would have loved to have had your input to make sure it was safe for that community. The gender recognition act that went to parliament – we could have had an almighty opportunity there to really make a stand and to safeguard our students and say yeah, we care, we give a s**t really. I am, I've been really disappointed"*

LGBTQ Officer: *"I'd just like to say I have just come back from the Trans conference at the NUS, where I have been representing our student body and actively writing policy that is going to help all universities, all LGBT and Trans student. Recently the NUS Trans campaign – they de-funded the Trans campaign and all Universities were asked to comment on it. I'm sad that you didn't ask me for my opinion on the white paper – like I literally went to the conference about the white paper with what was the best response. Like I spoke to Jonathon about it and a response was sent without asking at all.*

VP-ED *"In response to that, somehow, all NUS emails go to our junk email automatically. I checked it on the Friday morning and it was due that Friday evening.*

LGBTQ Officer: *"Fair enough".*

VP-ED *"On the Friday evening. I will gladly show you all of the responses. I sat down with Jonathon. I did invite you both to come and talk to me. I went onto the Exec Chat and said if anyone has any questions come met me, talk to me, I showed you the receipt didn't I?*

LGBTQ Officer: *"Yeah, that was after the deadline".*

VP-ED *"Yeah, it was literally, I found it in my junk box, Friday morning, was in meetings until 3pm and had two hours to do it.*

Sports Officer: *"Sorry, I really need your support. What you said about a minute ago you were writing a policy in relation to this. I think in light of the situation and the consequence of happens if this does go through, what is the policy about and what changes are you going to put through? You just said you were writing a policy.*

LGBTQ Officer: *"At NUS?"*

Sports Officer: *"What are they going to be doing for our students. How are they going to benefit"*

LGBTQ Officer: *"It depends if we accept certain policies. So say for example, Birmingham have just released a statement saying they are supporting the student sex workers which I think is a really, really important and is going to do amazing things for their SU. We VNC'd who is in charge of the NUS for de-funding the Trans campaign under her watch which means some of the most marginalised students in the country now have no support at all.*

However, we agreed at NUS that we would continue to work as a group regardless of if we had any funding at all”

As the meeting was becoming rather heated, the Chair called for a recess at this point for the meeting to be adjourned now at 19h50, to be reconvened at 20h00.

The meeting re-convened at 20h15.

The Chair called the meeting to order and reminded Members the point to order was to discuss a VNC, rather than what was previously being discussed before the adjournment. The Chair asked that if Members wanted to raise the issues outside of Council, that would be their prerogative.

The Chair went on to say that as a result of the conversations that had already been held, the minutes will be reviewed internally before they are published. A vote for striking anything from the minutes will not happen.

The Proposer for the LGBTQ VNC was asked to give a one minute summation.

- Proposer: *“So, there inconsistencies and lack of reporting quality in reports. There is lack of quality of work that has been performed. The opportunities that have been provided by multiple Officers and multiple part so the Union have never been taken advantage of by this Officer. There is query over his ability perform the role and lack of events, lack of publicity of the events. Just exclusion in regard to some LGBTQ+ members which for an Officer should never happen. He should be trying to represent those students.*
- BME Officer: *“I don’t think anyone here is going to question your credibility because you’ve clearly done things for Northampton itself so I’m sorry but if your mental health is stopping you from operating from September, then how can you help students within the LGBTQ category who go through what they are going through when you are going through your own issues as well and is affecting you at a much deeper level and then probably their issues are as well”.*
- LGBTQ Officer: *“So, the issues I face on a daily basis are pretty much exactly the same as my delegation. Like my mental health hasn’t stopped me from doing my job. My mental health has stopped me from ticking boxes - aka. handing in two reports and I missed like two Exec Councils. I’ve still been doing my job behind doors. It’s not actually my job to run events. That is down to the Society and I feel like that keeps getting put back on me. As for one the points which was raised about the democracy of the NUS. So originally I proposed that I was going to take 11 students with me. We didn’t have the money for that so I couldn’t take 11 students. Then I wanted to take 4 to NUS Trans. The booking was done on the day. We didn’t have the money to send all 4 students. Those students didn’t have to be voted in because they were the only 4 that applied for the positions and the rest of the students were all perfectly happy with them going. On the day, it didn’t happen. Only me and [xxx] were sent. I didn’t do the booking. I asked to do the booking. The booking was referred elsewhere. I wasn’t allowed to handle that so I think that’s pretty unfair.*

Non Cncllor2: *“As the Secretary of the LGBTQ Soc it is my job to make awareness of these things and I haven’t done that so that shouldn’t be blamed on the LGBTQ Officer”.*

BME Officer: *“If you say you’re paying us the minimum that you’re going through and everyone is going through, then you can’t come out here and say that’s the problem, that that problem has been affecting you when it’s the problem everyone is wearing”*

LGBTQ Officer: *“That problem, like, just because I experience that problem as well as my community, doesn’t make that problem valid. It means that I am more better equipped to help my students with said problem because I am also going through the same things, albeit at a later date so I have more advice to offer my students on how to deal with these things. That’s why I’m going to the National Conferences so I can better my students in this kind of stuff”*

BME Officer: *“But how are you know about experience that you don’t see? I’m the new BME Officer. There are a number of students in our section that and within the BAME community that I’m pretty sure are gay, bi-sexual and so on, and we are having issues. I don’t know you. I haven’t seen you at any meetings since I’ve been on Council so how can I help this set of people, how can I engage them. How can I make them feel safe or even safer because at the end of the day, we’re, they are already an oppressed class so they are probably going through the worst sort of thing you can go through and I haven’t seen you so I haven’t been able to discuss that sort of stuff with you.*

As there were no more interjections, the Chair read out the open letter sent to the Students’ Union. The letter was sent in opposition to the VNC currently being discussed. As the letter was only received today, it has not been distributed to the Councillors and they have not had the opportunity to debate it before-hand.

[Letter].

The Chair, after reading the letter then opened the floor to further comment.

Socs Rep: *“Events are a huge part of awareness for any group or community because it gets people. If they see there is an event, they are like, ahh look, there is an event that attracts me. I get to mingle with people that are similar to me or meet new people that I might not know at all otherwise.*

LGBTQ Officer: *“We’ve been having Queer Brunch and we’re having an event on Sunday with two local groups which are Trans and Q-Space which are Northampton based LGBTQ groups and we are celebrating with them as well.*

Ed Comm Chair: *“So, referring to the letter. Just because we did things a certain way last year doesn’t mean that we as Council can’t do things a different way this year. Like if we are cracking down on people not doing their jobs properly, I think that is something that – just because we weren’t strict in the past, that doesn’t mean we can’t be strict in the present.*

President *“This is a note for factual accuracy. It is important for Council to note this. That unfortunate individual (author of letter) was removed as a Member of the Students’ Union through a disciplinary hearing.*

That sounds understated but at the end of the day she did an excellent job in the role of LGBTQ officer and I thought for the record that is probably important to note”

Non Cncllor3: *“With regard to the letter, the Moulton Officer was erased after two months. We didn’t have quoracy the first time, we did the second time and he was removed and it was actually three months”*

AU Rep: *“This Council can’t be held accountable for previous Councils as I’m pretty sure the majority of people here weren’t here last year and therefore cannot be held accountable. However, I agree that if there are rules and regulations and procedures in place they should be followed correctly to avoid future mishaps being brought up again.*

LGBTQ Officer: *“There are a lot of people who don’t actually sit on the Soc committee and as you know we voted to get rid of the second First Love Church group and we actually came to the conclusion that we wouldn’t do that because in the earlier years they had been allowed to be accepted. So even though our policy now says we couldn’t have two of those student’s unions we agreed to do it because we’d originally let them in so that’s completely inconsistency between this Council and the other Council.*

VP-ED: *“I just want to say and reassure Council that regardless of the outcome tonight we as a Sabbatical team will be looking at what’s happened here and making sure we have got better safeguarding processes in place for these events.*

The Chair then asked for a two minutes summation from the motion proposer.

Proposer: *“In regard to not being able to fully represent the LGBT Q+ by basically ignoring and blocking some of its members the act not being able to*

I’m going to make a point here which is in regards to the request for funding. The fact that had he actually had a fixed figure or a rough guide we could have approved more so I think that that wasn’t quite appropriate.

We’ve now got forms to amend that so we can actually be more official and recognised. There’s large concerns in parts of the LGBTQ community about not being represented formally and I think that this incident, VNC has been called up and I genuinely feel as though I no longer had confidence in the LGBTQs ability to be the Officer for the LGBTQ+ Community.

The Chair then asked for a two minutes summation from the LGBTQ Officer.

LGBTQ Officer: *“As I’ve said, I’m going to apologise to my community again. I’m planning events. I’ve literally been doing that all of this week. All I can do is apologise. I’m perfectly capable to run my role. I think you’d be hard-pressed to find someone who is in such a nuanced situation as I am where I cannot only represent LGBTQ students but also Trans students. In regards to not having an exact figure, when I came to Council about the Trans conference, I had the exact figure down to the amount it would cost per person including travel, so that is frankly just not true.*

All of the Sabbs know that at the end of the day I have campaigned my ass off in this role. The reason I did it is because I genuinely, passionately believe in my community and losing this role is not going to stop me doing it but it is going to mean that a large bunch of students are going to have absolutely no representation until July and there will definitely be no event if I am VNC'd.

The Chair, after the LGBTQ's final summation moved to the vote which was conducted by secret ballot.

It was noted that two Councillors had temporarily left the room and were not present for the vote. Quoracy was noted as still valid with 24 members present for the vote.

On the Vote of No Confidence Motion against the LGBTQ Officer:

Votes For: 14 Votes Against: 3 Abstentions: 7 Absent: 2

Vote Result: Proposal to remove the LGBTQ Officer from office was carried.

At this point the Chair invited the LGBTQ Officer to remain for the rest of the meeting. They declined and left the room at which point the Chair thanked Councillors and moved to adjourn the meeting for a break from 20h40.

The meeting reconvened at 21h00.

The Chair moved to a vote to re-instate the former Vice Chair.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Absent: 2

Vote Result: Motion to re-instate the Vice Chair was carried unanimously.

7.3 Non-Portfolio Member – Adedotun Adebawale

The Chair invited the Proposer for this Vote of No Confidence to give a 2 minute speech on the reasons for the proposal.

The Proposer informed Council that the Member in question has never attended Council.

The Chair invited questions.

There was one question raised as to what are the responsibilities of this person. The Proposer explained that as a non-position, the role is one that is representative of the whole student body, rather than just a particular group or groups of students.

There was a further question as to whether anyone had heard from the Member and the answer was no.

The Chair move to vote on the motion to accept the vote of no confidence. As the Member was not present, the Chair asked for a vote based on the raising on hands.

Votes For: 24 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 Absent:

Vote Result: Proposal to remove the Non-Portfolio Member was carried.

7.4 A.U. Rep – Scott Hinsley

The Chair invited the Proposer for this Vote of No Confidence to give a 2 minute speech on the reasons for the proposal.

The Proposer informed Council that the Member in question has demonstrated a lack of attendance for Student Council meetings.

The Chair invited questions.

It was asked if a secret ballot was necessary for the remaining VNC's given that there was one Member in the room present to defend his VNC. After consultation with the member, it was agreed a procedural motion to accept a show of hands as a valid vote be accepted.

1. Procedural Motion (12) Change vote from Secret Ballot to show of hands for this VNC. Submitted to amend the secret ballot for VNCs to a show of hands.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 Absent:

Vote Result: Procedural motion carried.

At this point the Ed Comm Chair stated that all the people present were doing their jobs, the people who were subject to a Vote of No Confidence were unknown to Members present.

There were no further questions.

The Chair move to vote on the motion to accept the vote of no confidence against AU Rep Scott Hinsley.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 Absent:

Vote Result: Proposal to remove the AU Rep Scott Hinsley was carried.

7.5 A.U. Rep – Sebastien Antaki

The Chair invited the Proposer for this Vote of No Confidence to give a 2 minute speech on the reasons for the proposal.

The Proposer informed Council that the Member in question has demonstrated a lack of attendance for Student Council meetings.

The Chair invited questions.

Again, the question was asked as to if anyone knew who this person was as he had not attended AU meetings either. Nobody was aware of this person.

There were no further questions.

2. Procedural Motion (12) Change vote from Secret Ballot to show of hands for this VNC. Submitted to amend the secret ballot for VNCs to a show of hands.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: Absent:

Vote Result: Procedural motion carried.

The Chair move to vote on the motion to accept the vote of no confidence against AU Rep Sebastien Antaki.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 Absent:

Vote Result: Proposal to remove the AU Rep Sebastien Antaki carried.

7.6 A.U. Rep – Tom Weaver

The Chair invited the Proposer for this Vote of No Confidence to give a 2 minute speech on the reasons for the proposal.

The Proposer informed Council that the Member in question, in accordance with point 4.77 of the Student Council Bye Law, should be removed for non-attendance of two consecutive meetings, being December 2018 and January 2019.

The Chair invited the Member in question to provide his defence.

The Member in question apologised, due to unforeseen circumstances in December, he was forced to return home and did acknowledge that he should have sent an email to communicate his issue. The second occasion happened during a period when a second assessment was due. The Member in question studies computing and their dissertations are mainly project based. They had been hired by a company to work, had a presentation to complete and was completely stressed out at the time. They had intended to attend Council and should have said something at the time. In terms of their work as a Councillor, they are the Secretary for Rugby, is always working, always at AU meetings, keeps keys, deals with issues brought to the team and deals with Wednesday fixture lists.

The Chair opened the meeting to questions.

In defence of the Member in question, VP-UD acknowledged the Member was a very active and valued member of AU.

Business and Law Rep asked how many meetings had been missed. It was noted only two.

The Sports Officer also spoke in defence of the Member in question saying he was an asset to the team.

Ed Comm Chair commented that sometimes, Members aren't able to attend but that doesn't mean they do not add value and concurred with VP-UD and Sports Officer.

There were no further comments.

The Chair invited the Proposer to give a 2 minutes summation.

The Proposer repeated that the Member in question had missed two meetings in a row and it was important to uphold the Bye-Laws.

The Member in question gave their summation saying he accepted that they should follow the rules and they understood why they were the subject of a vote of no confidence and once again profusely apologised. They acknowledged an email should have been sent and that he was sorry.

At this point, the Member in question removed himself from the room in order for the vote to be carried out.

3. Procedural Motion (12) Change vote from Secret Ballot to show of hands for this VNC. Submitted to amend the secret ballot for VNCs to a show of hands.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: Absent:

Vote Result: Procedural motion carried.

The Chair move to vote on the motion to accept the vote of no confidence against AU Rep Tom Weaver.

Votes For: 0 Votes Against: 25 Abstentions: Absent:

Vote Result: Proposal to remove the AU Rep Tom Weaver was NOT carried.

8. Motions:

A. Discussion Points
None Submitted.

B. Bye-Law Amendments

B(i) Membership Bye Law

Proposed by VP-UD. Seconded by: VP-Ed

This was tabled in December and revised and re-submitted in January and during Council was subjected to a number of further amendments that were submitted by procedural motion.

The Chair invited the Proposer to summarise their proposal.

VO-UD clarified that the amendments tabled were to clarify the policy and procedure to make it easier to understand.

The Chair opened for questions.

The Mature Students Officers asked VP-UD to clarify what had been put in place with regards right to appeal and if that had been made clear. VP-UD replied that it had.

The Chair then advised that the procedural motions previously submitted and only indicatively voted upon would need to be ratified before the Bye Law could be voted on.

The Chair invited the Proposer to summarise. VP-UD said the matter had been discussed, an indicative vote had been taken and the amendments tidy up the bye law and make it clear with regard to associate membership.

There were no further comments.

The Chair moved to vote on the procedural motions submitted in January Council to amend the proposal to amend the Membership Bye Law – Associate Membership.

4. Procedural Motion (6) Associate Membership
Submitted to amend the bye law amendment proposal submitted in December and January.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 Absent:

Vote Result: Procedural motion carried.

A further question was raised as to when the price of Associate Membership should be decided. It was suggested that Associate Membership should be granted during the first Council of the academic year after the new Councillors have had their training and are in post. A further procedural motion to amend the motion was submitted.

5. Procedural Motion (6) Associate Membership
Submitted to add a point at 1.2.2.10 the Council shall decide the price of Associate Membership during the first meeting of the new Council.

There were no speakers in opposition.

No further questions.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 Absent:

Vote Result: Procedural motion carried.

The Chair moved to vote on the Bye Law Amendment Proposal – Associate Membership and invited the Proposer to give a summation which was that the amendment provides clarity and understanding to the bye law.

There were no speakers in opposition.

There were no questions.

The Chair moved to vote on the Bye Law Amendment proposal, taking into consideration the four procedural motions previously submitted to further amend the proposal.

Votes For: 24 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to amend the Membership Bye Law

B(ii) Committees Bye Law

Removal of Societies Development Committee
Proposed by VP-UD. Seconded by: VP-ED

This bye-law amendment was submitted in December and January but as those meetings were not quorate, no vote was taken.

The Chair asked the Proposer to summarise.

This bye-law amendment proposal calls for the Societies Development Committee to be removed as the Committee has never met and the Societies Committee itself carries out all the duties necessary.

Ed-Comm Health and Society Rep spoke in support for the proposal. They had been on the Development Committee in previous years and nothing had been done by the Committee as all. They had no rights and there was no reason to have it.

Ed-Comm Chair spoke in opposition. They felt that having an active Development Committee that covered recreational activities might be a good idea.

The Chair counselled that any further amendments will require a new Bye Law Amendment proposal being put forward at a future Council meeting.

Questions

The Mature Students' Officer raised a concern regarding financial control of expenditure by Societies.

Ed-Comm Health and Society Rep explained that the Development Committee had never been given any rights or expenditure.

The President felt that the Development Committee duties should be brought into the Societies Committee and let them have the power.

VP_UD summarised that the issue had been discussed at Societies Committee, previously at Council. The Development Committee was something that was discussed and voted on by the old Societies Committee.

There were no further comments or questions.

The Chair moved to vote on the Committees bye-law amendment proposal calls for the Societies Development Committee to be removed.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 Absent: 1

Vote Result: Vote carried to amend the Committees Bye Law.

C. Policy Proposals

1. RAG Policy Renewal

Proposed by Mature Students' Officer. Seconded by: VP-UD

Chair invited Proposer to summarise the proposal. This Proposal is to renew the RAG Policy which requires renewal every year.

Ed-Comm Business and Law Rep asked for clarification on what the RAG Policy is. Mature Students' Officer replied that it sets out policy to govern charity to charity financial controls with regard to the Charity Commission.

Mature Students Officer said the only change that had been made was to amend the date of renewal.

There were no further questions.

The Chair moved to vote on the RAG Policy Renewal.

Votes For: 24 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to accept the RAG Policy Renewal.

2. Policy for Domestic Flights and CO2 Pollution

Proposed by Mature Students' Officer. Seconded by: VP-UD

The Chair invited the proposer to summarise the proposal. The Mature Students Officer reminded Members that this had been discussed at the last Council meeting. The proposal suggests that unless there is no alternative, that Student Union funds are not used for domestic flights within Great Britain unless as a last resort and agreed by the relevant staff co-ordinator.

There were no speakers in opposition.

There were no questions.

The Chair moved to vote to accept the proposal as submitted.

Votes For: 24 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Absent: 1

Vote Result: Vote carried to accept the Domestic Flights Policy.

D. Officer Mandates

The Chair reminded Councillors that as the previous two meetings had not been quorate, there were a number of mandates that would need to be re-visited, commencing with those raised in December followed by those raised in January. The detail had already been provided in the proposals and are summarised here.

December:

1. VP Education – Separate Internet Networks – Faculty Advocate.

It was noted that some changes had been made with regard to different firewalls and access to networks and applications to IT can be made to allow for gaming.

There were no questions.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as being complete.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 Absent: 1

Vote Result: Vote carried to complete mandate.

2. AU Requested VP Education to provide elected officers with list of campaigns.

Sports Officer replied that a meeting was planned for January with MIND, still waiting for a reply but hoping to plan 4 or 5 campaigns in the New Year.

Some work has been ongoing and has been discussed at AU. Rainbow Laces for Varsity and promo video in progress. It was noted that MIND have missed a meeting twice. However, VP-UD has been speaking to people at a national level and has been advised to speak to those at a more local level.

There were no questions.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 12 Votes Against: 9 Abstentions: 3 Absent: 1

Vote Result: Vote carried to continue mandate.

3. VP – Union Development – Sports Pitches

AU Chair AU requested VP Education to provide dates and times when the keys for the sports pitches are available for collection.

Keys have been collected and will be available for the end of the week. There was a question raised as to how or what is required for students to book the spaces as difficulties had been experienced when trying to do so. VP-UD advised that it was best to go to the Engine Shed to make bookings. If the spaces are available and not already being used for lecturers or matches, then there is no reason why they should not be available.

An observer said they had also had issues trying to book the Dom or 4G pitch. VP-UD said he would look into it.

There were no further questions.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as complete.

Votes For: 21 Votes Against: 3 Abstentions: Absent: 1

Vote Result: Vote carried to complete mandate.

4. VP Union Development and Sports Officer – Water Fountain in Sports Facilities

AU Chair Mandate to implement a water fountain in sports pavilion or sports dome. VP Union Development agreed 100% that this is necessary and mentioned they would be meeting with Jane Bunce and could discuss this then.

VP-UD said this was ongoing and he would be following it up.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: Abstentions: 2 Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to continue mandate.

5. VP Union Development – Social Media for Sports Teams

AU Chair Mandate to increase social media exposure for all sports teams. VP Union Development commented that they are working on being able to have a member of staff to work full time on sports Wednesdays to facilitate increased exposure and is currently negotiating with the CEO to get this approved. In the meantime, VP Union Development will support this themselves until such staff is in place.

The matter is in progress. VP-UD is working with the new marketing agency for a template that can be uploaded. It is intended for a live scoring system to be trialled during Varsity.

AU Chair spoke in support.

There were no further questions or comments.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 24 Votes Against: Abstentions: 1 Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to continue mandate.

6. Sports Officer – Titans Partnership

AU Chair Mandate to communicate with Titans to chase up creating a partnership. The Chair moved to vote to accept the procedural motion

Sports Officer has been on placement and has not had time to pick this up. Requested it be left as ongoing.

There were no further questions or comments.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: Abstentions: 0 Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to continue mandate.

7. VP – Union Development – Minibus Form

AU Chair Mandate to have the minibus form updated. This has been done.

There were no further questions or comments.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as complete.

Votes For: 24 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Absent: 1

Vote Result: Vote carried to complete mandate.

8. President – Cheerleading

AU Chair Mandate to reply to Cheerleading and chase up the location of their mats. The Chair moved to vote to accept the procedural motion. The President advised that the matter has now been resolved and the group have their mats.

The Mature Students' Officer asked if these were a replacement. The President replied that a decision had already been made to replace them.

There were no further questions or comments.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as complete.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to complete mandate.

9. VP – Union Development – Pay and Display Parking

AU Chair Mandate to find out more about pay and display and when it will be implemented. AS VP Union Development is meeting with Jane Bunce they will attempt to obtain a reply then. The Chair moved to vote to accept the procedural motion

VP-UD has spoken to Jane Bunce. This mandate was with regard to a 50p parking charge at Midsummer Meadow. Parking on campus is now open over the weekends and parking as a whole will be reviewed in March.

There were no further questions or comments.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: Abstentions: 0 Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to continue mandate.

10. VP Union Development and Sports Officer – Website and Memberships

AU Chair Mandate to find out more about the website and more details about membership. VP Union Development and Sports Officer agreed. Progress on the website is slow and staff currently working on data input. They are also waiting for development plan and waiting to hear about a possible launch in term 2.

a

The website is now up and running. AU Rep said that he had heard the Committee hub was not working. Observer said 80% of Members are not able to access their current sign in. Those people who are both student and staff can't sign in at all. There was one instance where a staff/student has tried to sign in and been directed to University of Lincoln Blackboard.

It was further noted that Rugby Union had not been able to access contact details for social media and had not been able to add manifestos etc. The Dr Who Society were also experiencing with societies emails.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: Abstentions: 0 Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to continue mandate.

At this point, the Chair interjected and advised for those who had concerns about their social media and the website, VP-UD was willing to help. It was noted that if issues are being experienced with regard to nominations for elections, there was a published procedure to follow to help with problems.

January:

1. VP – Union Development - A House without Rules is Chaos – The Last Straw

Meeting was demanded in order to hold staff account for not complying with the policy and that Council policy is clearly explained to them.

VP – Union Development said that he would go and speak to staff re this.

VP-UD has taken this up with the Manager at Avenue and staff do follow the policy and are all aware of it. The question was asked if the matter had been followed up since the last VSEC meeting and the VP-UD replied that it had been followed up.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 17 Votes Against: 1 Abstentions: 7 Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to continue mandate

2. VP – Welfare – Moulton College Info Report.

The Mature Students' Officer explained that this was a mandate for the VP-Welfare to go and visit Moulton College to investigate what systems are in place for supporting them and to find out why the relationship has failed in order to ascertain what went wrong and if the relationship is not to continue, how best to separate. It was not clear what roles they have, either Education Officer or Activities officer etc as these are not available on the website

VP-Welfare had attended a meeting at Moulton today but found out that if a relationship is to continue the rights structures need to be in place.

It was pointed out that two Officers had been mandated to do this. VP-UD said that he had been working with VP-Welfare on this but it had been made clear that although there was appetite from the students, the College management were not supportive in the same way.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 24 Votes Against: 1 Abstentions: Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to continue mandate

3. President Mandate – To look into security at the University

- a) President to explore the idea of holding security open forums
A Q&A Police Forum was held in the Engine Shed and looking for more opportunities to explore this.
- b) President to explore if security can be stationed at ground floor security barriers
Security has been placed at the barriers, particularly in the Learning Hub and this is being looked at for the campus as a whole as to where best to place security staff and this will be reviewed.
- c) President to investigate ensuring Halls and houses are locked automatically This has been raised and contractors are coming out this week to look at resolving the issue. This should be completed by the start of next term.
- d)
- e) President to explore whether Police can walk around campus in their uniforms.
President has spoken to the Police team and they are currently rotating in and out of uniform and conducting research which will be published later this year.

Ed-Comm Chair said some good progress had been made but requested this this mandate be left as ongoing.

There were no further comments or questions.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 22 Votes Against: 3 Abstentions: Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to continue mandate

4. VP Union Development mandate – Art Shop, i.e.:

VPUD to explore how the Art Shop could be moved to Waterside.

VP-UD advised that various options had been considered and discussed and a number of conversations had with the University. A petition had gone up on Facebook that didn't sit well with the Avenue students and VP-UD had been there to speak with them. At the moment there is a lot on uncertainty with a number of different stakeholders and any decision is going to take some time. The President concurred.

The question was asked as to if an alternative place would be found for students to obtain art supplies. VP-UD said the Art Shop was staying where it is for the moment but it will depend on what happens with the art students next year. The question was asked as to what additional support would be provided for the students at Waterside. VP-UD explained the options that had been explored already and the President concurred the best solution at the moment is for the Art Shop to remain at Avenue.

There were no further questions or comments.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to continue mandate

5. VP Welfare mandate – Sanitary Bins, i.e.:

VP Welfare to look into how the university can provide sanitary bins in all female toilets across campus

VP-Welfare said that by the end of October, sanitary bins had been provided in all ladies toilets as well as the gender-neutral toilets and VP-Ed and President concurred this was the case across campus.

ED Comm Chair asked if any female Members here had experienced any issues.

BME Officer left the meeting at this point.

There were no further questions.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as complete.

Votes For: 21 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 3 Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to complete mandate

6. Welfare mandate – Water fountains, i.e.:

1. VP Welfare to explore if the university can signal water fountains better
2. VP Welfare to explore if the water fountains can be monitored and filled more regularly
3. VP Welfare to look into policy from CH&Co (catering company) to see why students need to pay for tap water

It was noted that water fountains have been installed all over campus.

There were no questions.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as complete.

Votes For: 15 Votes Against: 5 Abstentions: 3 Absent: 1

Vote Result: Vote carried to complete mandate.

The Sports Officer left the meeting.

7. **Mandate the VP-Union Development on UNO buses, I.e.**

To increase the frequency of the number 20 bus and to have double decker busses on the route to increase capacity.

This mandate was further added to include looking into irregularities regarding the frequency of the services and the possibility of an additional stop on the other side of the Race Course.

This week particularly, the No 19 and 19A have either not shown up or have shown up late meaning students are arriving at Waterside late for lectures. With regard to the additional stop, the request had been taken to the [UNO?] Board but had been referred back to VP-UD who felt that if the issue was continuously raised then something might happen in the future. Members asked for an alternative solution.

The question was asked if something could be done as a Students' Union to help members find a safe solution.

President was of the mind to take the problem to the University and raise the issue of safety there. Ed Comm Health and Society Rep said that she had recently found a possible solution whereby a support group is set up through a chat group facility so that if a walker was feeling unsafe, they could message into the group chat and someone would call them and chat whilst crossing the race course.

Ed-Comm Chair asked exactly where the additional stop was being proposed – next to the White Elephant as the No 21 had a stop there. The question was asked if VP-Education has looked into the No20 provision over weekends. They said that had and that it would be possible but there would be charge for the service.

The President said that there is work being done with the University on something to help identify women in crisis and the solution offered above was a credible one.

There were no further comments or questions.

The Chair moved to accept the mandate as ongoing.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: Absent: 0

Vote Result: Vote carried to carry forward mandate

At this point, the Chair recognised the lateness of the hour and submitted a procedural motion to adjourn the meeting and for the rest of the meeting to be taken up at the Executive Meeting to be held on 5th March 2019.

6. Procedural Motion (13) Meeting Adjournment
Student Council Meeting to be adjourned and completed during Student Executive meeting in 5th March 2019 with any recommendations to be brought back to Student Council at the March meeting.

There were no speakers in opposition.

No questions.

Votes For: 23 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: Absent:0

Vote Result: Procedural motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 22h30.

END.

Members in attendance overleaf:

APPENDIX A

MEMBERS ATTENDANCE:

Committee	Name	Initials	Role	Attendance
Executive	Raf Garcia-Krailing	RGK	President	Present
Executive	Ryan Bradshaw	RB	VP Union Development.	Present
Executive	Gemma Lovegrove	GL	VP Education	Present
Executive	Shangyin Ji	SJ	VP Welfare	Present
Executive	Vacant		Societies Officer	
Executive	Josh Olasehinde	JO	BME Officer	Present
Executive	Chris Watkins	CW	Entertainments Officer	Absent
Executive	Alex Lopez	AL	Sports Officer	Present
Executive	Vacant		Disabled Students' Officer	
Executive	Jonathan Vobe	JV	Mature Students' Officer	Present
Executive	vacant		Internat. Students' Officer	
Executive	Vacant		Changemaker Officer	
Executive	Jack Hill	JH	LGBTQ Students' Officer	Present
Executive	Hollie Travill	HT	Women's Officer	Absent
Education	Komal Salah Ud Din	KS	Business and Law	Present
Education	Sadie Wood	SW	Health and Society	Apologies
Education	Ana Saravanja	AS	Health and Society	Present
Education	Catriona Doyle	CD	Health and Society	Present
Education	Sam Dorywala	SD	Education and Hum.	Present
Education	Louise Dowson	LD	Education and Hum.	Absent
Education	Amber Rawlins	AR	FAST	Apologies
Education	Sam Arnold	SA	FAST	Present
Education	Ben Gibson	BG	FAST	Absent
Education	Lilliam Kuroma	:LK	FAST	Present
Non Portf.	Zoe Pape (Chair)	ZP	Non Portfolio Rep	Present
Non Portf.	Ade Adebawale	AA	Non Portfolio Rep	Absent
Societies	Ahmed O. Basil	AOB	Societies Rep	Present
Societies	Taryn Astle	TEA	Societies Rep	Present
Societies	vacant		Societies Rep	
Societies	Fergal D Clancy	FDC	Societies Rep	Present
Societies	Karolina Baran	KB	Societies Rep	Present
AU	Sebastien Antaki	SA	AU Rep	Absent
AU	Katy Baker	KB	AU Rep	Present
AU	Tom Weaver	TW	AU Rep	Present
AU	Kate Parsons	KP	AU Rep	Present
AU	Natasha Weasley (Dep Chair)	NW	AU Rep	Present
AU	Scott Hinsley	SH	AU Rep	Absent
AU	Kieran Malkin	KM	AU Rep	Present
Volunteering	Sarah Crooks	SC	Vol. and Soc Ent. Rep	Absent
Volunteering	Hannah Joes	HJ	Vol. and Soc Ent. Rep	Present
Volunteering	Samantha Hernandez	SH	Vol. and Soc Ent. Rep	Present