

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON STUDENTS' UNION
STUDENT COUNCIL

Thursday 17th October 2019

18:00 Morley Room

PRESENT: Gemma Lovegrove (President); Ryan Bradshaw (VPUD); Katy Baker (VP Welfare); Cameron Vanloo (VP Education); Thomas Weaver (Sports Officer); Anthony Stepniak (PGR Officer); Catriona Doyle (Disabled Students Officer); Paul Dinsmore (LGBTQ Officer); Sami Ullah (International Students Officer); Katerina Nurcelli (Changemaker Officer); Otomiewo Tegorgor (Soc Chair); Mathew Stanton (Soc Deputy Chair); Beth Garrett (Ed Chair); Louise Dowson (Ed); Sam Dorywala (Ed); Jonathon Vobe (MSA President); Danielle Ward (AU); Ratri Mauricio (AU); Charlie Hughes (AU)

APOLOGIES: Tre Ventour (VP BME); Stephania Chaudhri (AU); D'Arcey Arrowsmith (AU); Claudia Gyngell (Soc); Jack Farnell (AU Chair); Janea Bernabe (Societies Officer)

ABSENT: Usama Anwar (Ed); Mave Brindley (Soc); Anchal Gautam(Soc); Simisola Oladapo (Soc);

MINUTES: Lucinda Maiden (Democracy Coordinator)

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of conflicts of interest

- None

3. Election of chair

- Non-quorate – defer vote until next meeting

4. Approval of minutes

5. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

6. Motions

6.1. Proposed by-law amendments

6.1.1. Council Byelaw

- Insufficient by-laws
- New motion process and more comprehensive by-laws
- More staff support to mitigate different knowledge
- Request – JV- by-law amendment to be passed through sub-committees
- Vote – subcommittees/or resubmit to next council – vote to resubmit

6.1.2. Committee Byelaw

- Restructuring of committees
- Question – JV - why are new group regulations in place
- Issue raised – KN - problems opting in
- VP Ed – issues caused by staffing and funding issues
- Question – JV – who decides on
- Indicative vote – passes

6.2. Policy Proposal

6.2.1. Sexual harassment policy

- Current policy outdated
- Needed something up to date and personal to the SU
- Agree to zero tolerance stance, inform staff of policy and implementation, promote the union policy, maintain professional and credible complaints procedure in the SU

- Question – JV – where and who accounts to? Lack of clarity for university and union events in external locations. How this applies to visitors? Ans: G – university has safe reporting system and guidance for these incidences. JV – union policy and structure not university. Needs to be made clear if referral to university and/or police. Ans – GL – dependant on how the injured party wants to go forward. GL offers feedback opportunity to JV.
- Vote to take to next council – passed

7. Reports

7.1. May Trustee report

- Summary – student council resolutions (RAG policy)
- Food at student council – issue with budget, already lack of student engagement. List of requirements and impact study for next council
- Monetary costs associated for use of space between platform and the charity
- Indicative vote: passed

7.2. Finance report / latest trustee report – to be brought to next council

7.3. Officer reports

7.3.1. President Report

- Training for new exec
- Planning of welcome, freshers', induction week
- By-law amendment, review of committee structure
- Review of disciplinaries
- Student complaints/appeals – picked up for vacant student advisor position
- New traffic system for manifesto pledges
- Provision of sanitary and condoms
- Question – JV - training of council and exec
- Questions – JV – Presence of part-time officers at working groups. Ans – GL/PD – no objections from PTO and option for input
- Vote – passed

7.3.2. VP UD Report

- Freshers
- Wednesday free policy
- Green impact award – very good
- Art Shop
- Engine Shed – restructured to make it a more student friendly and welcoming space
- Thanks for Tom – credit to the team and massive support during staff absence
- Questions – JV – Freshers
 - Issues with funding being cut with non-attendance at Union Day – issues with tone – to be discussed

Procedural motion – 5 min break

Vote for temporary chair (Conflict of Interest with president as chair)

7.3.3. VP Education Report

- Governance and democracy review – increase sustainability, improved training and handbook for course advocacy
- Non-drinking socials

- Lecture shout outs
- Questions – JV – what meetings did you walk out on? – Ans – CV – identified meetings that there are more appropriate exec members to attend
- Question – PD – university have not looked at drop out rates for LGBTQ students alongside other minority groups
- Need to chase up invitations for part time officers for the ISEC meeting
- Vote to accept

7.3.4. VP Welfare Report

- Looking at key points and focus points for the year – representation
- Campaigns – world mental health campaign, spiking campaign
- Help with signposting (mental health), emergency hardship fund,
- Togetherness Tuesdays replaces wellbeing wellness
- Mental health network board
- Housing network at borough council
- Question – JV – Have you considered keeping costs down for new housing provisions? ANS – KB – in discussions
- Questions – want to increase student engagement but removing student voice councillor
- JV – Mandate GL to look into elections
- PD – commendation – the high level of support, gone above and beyond to support PD in a difficult situation
- Vote to accept

7.3.5. VP BME Report

- Absent – brief overview by GL
- Ran 27 across 32 days – mixture of events, opened up to the public, quite good engagement. Worked with other universities to improve the experiences
- Vote to accept

7.3.6. Sports Officer Report

- Union Day – great feedback, massive engagement
- Involvement in Uni Open day
- Pushing social media – social media of the month award, regular promotion of sports club
- Helping a lot in the absence of sports officer
- Working on venues for varsity
- Re-introduction of futsal team, possible new women's' cricket team (looking at setting up a committee, have numbers of interested women, logistics)
- Sports journalism students involved in Wednesday sports fixtures
- CV – Commendation of TW work, seconded by AU councillors
- Request – JV – old pages – ANS – monitoring the situation, issues with access to the account (JV – What can SU do?) ANS – looking into it. Addition from AU – it is visible which pages are more active, should mitigate some of the issues.
- Question from chair – visibility of teams outside of social media. ANS – working on graphics to go around screens on campus. JV – asks if they
- Vote to accept

7.3.7. Societies Officer Report

- Absent (without apologies) - CV addressing instead

- Successful society awards
- Manifesto pledges – no real activity
- Society trip to Alton towers – questions raised on feasibility

7.3.8. Disabled Students' Officer Report

- Planned events – one each term
- Event with changemaker officer to help students with internships, accessibility ect.
- Drop in sessions
- Expresses gratitude to sabs
- Echoed by sabs
- Question – JV – accessibility of election stage. This will be arranged for the next election season.

7.3.9. International Students' Officer Report

- Issue with lack of training
- Met with international students and helped where could
- Concerns – training
- Question – JV – knowledge of the role before being elected. Sabs have training period before starting – should this be the same for PTOs
- KV – sabs there for help prior to training
- Question – Manifesto Pledge – What has been attempted to complete. ANS – don't have platform to achieve anything without training. Q – Why haven't you approached sabs or staff for advice.
- Question – what are manifesto pledges. ANS – bring SU to international students
- JW – understand need for training but need to at least start on pledges
- AU – desire to bring international students to SU but haven't done with on a personal level. AU – president of sports society, in similar position but started on work.
- Procedural motion – vote and move on. Report Passed

7.3.10. LGBTQ Students' Officer Report

- LGBT History month planning – meeting with history faculty and county archive. Event held in county archives in Northampton – social, political, cultural, criminal aspects of LGBT history. How difficult it is to find. Interdisciplinary event.
- Intersection of LGBTQ and religion – panel discussions?
- Theme hasn't been released yet, will have an impact on events. In contact with charities for speakers
- Follow Tre's format of BHM
- Collaboration with sports team
- Weekly conversation café – high engagement but concerns with level of conflict within the community.
- Work on including LGBT option for accommodation
- High level of serious abuse – serious issue with homophobia and transphobia
- Meetings with university staff.
- CV – PD had difficult job, doing well. Echoes issue with abuse
- AS – opportunity to collaborate. Issues with coming out and questioning. How to create a space? People not necessarily wanting it to be visible.
- PD. Asks councillors present to help undercover and combat homophobia and transphobia on campus

- GL. PD has gone above and beyond for students in very difficult situations
- JV – reiterates that PD can approach all councillors for help/advice
- SU – issue surrounding international students – coming out? Abuse? Intolerance?
PD – open to suggestions as don't know how to approach issues with cultural acceptance of LGBT
- Commendation of efforts for LGBTQ community
- Report Accepted

7.3.11. Changemaker Officer Report

- Openly admits they have not made much progress. Not blaming training but pressure from other commitments. Trying and collaborating with disabilities officer
- JV – Role was founded to collaborate between VSEC and Changemaker Hub. What will be role after committee reform. ANS. Still need for collaboration with SU and Changemaker.
- CV – Mandate (not quorate) – review the role of changemaker – Passed
- Report Passed

7.3.12. Postgraduate (Research) Students' Officer

- Working on manifesto pledge – formal document of PGR teaching opportunities.
- Attended wellbeing event. Address some issues in relation to teaching and being a student
- PGR, ECR research award.
- Recruitment event (L8) being run for the first time.
- PGR nomination to university boards – issue with communication.
- CV – Commendation – AS was a fundamental positive part of the summer.
- Vote on report - Passed.

8. Ratification of committee minutes

8.1. Societies – 7/10/19

- Redaction of emails on the minutes.
- Minutes passed (not quorate)

8.2. AU – 10/10/19

- First aid training, Wednesday free policy, Union Day (big thankyou), varsity
- Mandates. Issues with heating in the sports dome. Continuing issue. TW notes the hard work that is being done. Issues with safety of sports teams and visiting teams. Nothing more that can be done on the union side. Down to continuing pushing the university. Admission of guilt. ED Com – issue with lectures in sports dome. Lecturers have raised issues. Problematic response – coats. BUCS – play under protest. Engagement is up but facilities letting down
- Vote to pass

8.3. Ed com – 15/10/19

- Minutes will be brought to next council
- Introductory session – new faculty advocates. Advocate training. Updates. Course advocate directory. Work on course advocates. Elections. Discussion of issues that have come up. Timetabling, sports dome, parking. Asist. Disruption of the HE fair.
- Vote next week.

9. Issues arising from the committee meeting.

10. Any other business

- Returning officer and deputy returning officer votes

- SOC – associate membership. Alumni and honorary. Costs associated need to be decided at the first exec meeting. Differ to conversation after exec meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting: 14th November