

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON STUDENTS' UNION

MEETING OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Thursday 11th October 2018

PRESENT: Number: 26
As in Appendix A

MINUTES: K Macintyre (KM)

APOLOGIES: In Appendix A

Council commenced at 18h10.

ZP called the meeting to order and offered a few tips for those attending Council meetings including speaking to each other with respect, no swearing allowed, no talking over each other and raising hands when a question is to be asked.

Introductions were made around the room including NW as Deputy Chair.

1. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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

None raised.

3. Apologies Received

Society Chair (AOB).

4. Motions:

A. Discussion Points

None.

B. Bye-Law Amendments

B(i) Societies Terms of Reference (RB)

Proposed by RB. Seconded by: RGK

Summary:

RB put forward the proposal, commenting that it was pretty much the same with the meetings taking place a minimum of three and a maximum of four per term.

Questions:

No questions were asked.

Votes For: 26

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Vote Result: Proposal carried forward unanimously.

C. Policy Proposals

C(i) Food Bank Policy

Proposed by RB, seconded by RGK.

Summary:

The currently policy states that all remaining products must be offered to students for free in the community fridge.

RB believes it could cause some issues with health and safety regulations and food hygiene. RB does not want to run the risk of having students ill and that it fits with the wider health and safety regulations for food hygiene. E.g ensuring food is kept at a certain temperature so it does not go off quickly.

RB believes this would be difficult to police, both in making sure the food is put in the fridge within the 2 hour timeframe, and that it is not contaminated when it is in the fridge.

Amendment proposed:

3.1 'then all remaining products must be offered to students for free in the community fridge.'
Should be removed from the current policy.

Questions:

Ed Comm asked if there is there a community fridge currently in place? RB replied there is no fridge currently in place but should one become available in future then this would provide the protection required.

S.A (Faculty Advocate) asked what a community fridge is and where it would potentially be positioned. RB explained a community fridge is one where spare food, no longer required by people can be stored for other people in need and that it would be potentially be placed in the Engine Shed near the Café.

Votes For: 25

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Vote Result: Proposal carried.

D. Officer Mandates

None.

5. Trustee's Report

As submitted by RGK.

Highlights:

Induction of new Student Trustee has taken place. Elections are ongoing for the remaining student Trustee positions and Councillors are requested to encourage peers to apply.
Board meetings have now increased from 4 per annum to 6 per annum.

The new brand identity has been approved.

A formal Board Review has been conducted as part of the governance review for the Board of Trustees and it is RGK's opinion that the Board could be improved; therefore, it has been recommended that an external person is engaged to conduct a governance review and that this will be an ongoing process each year.

Content for reporting in to Trustees has been examined and recommendations made to improve reporting over the 6 meetings, including sub-committees.

The incorporation of the Northampton Students' Union Services Limited company has now taken place. RGK managed to get the University's support for this. It will be beneficial for the commercial part of the Students' Union to be separated from the charitable part and will ensure financial sustainability for the Platform and provide a means of protecting the charitable status of the Students' Union including the Engine Shed.

Questions:

No questions were asked.

Votes For: 26

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Vote Result: Report accepted.

6. Finance Report

As submitted by RGK.

Highlights:

Report covers trade for the Engine Shed only and does not include full period of trading as yet.

Questions:

No questions were asked.

Votes For: 25

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Vote Result: Report accepted.

7. Green Impact Report

None submitted.

8. Officer Reports

The Chair noted that a number of Officer reports had not been submitted in advance or on time for this meeting. If a report is not going to be submitted or is submitted late for any reason, this needs to be communicated to the Chair, in advance. The Chair stated she was more than happy to be lenient as this was the first meeting of the year but such leniency would not be extended to any further meetings.

8(a) **President** – Raf Garcia-Krailing

Key Items:

Union Day in the Town Centre

It was absolutely brilliant. Feedback form students was fantastic so thank you for all your support. The impact that the event will have on the local public is immense, good promotion of the students to the public.

Strategy

Have been working on finalising the strategy which has now been signed off.

Sabbatical Team

The team has settled in very well, doing very well and working hard. They are becoming well connected and are having impact. Councillors encouraged to keep talking to the sabbatical officers and ask questions.

Questions:

JB (Societies Officer) mentioned that feedback had received from people at Union Day, supporting the Bone Marrow charity which had all their equipment misplaced by the SU and asked if there was something in place to prevent this sort of thing happening again. RGK replied explaining that there had been issues with transport services engaged by the SU. He asked all incidents to be emailed to him and he would do something about the situation.

S.A (Faculty Advocate) and JH (LGBTq Officer) expressed their concerns regarding Union Day with teams being expected to spend the whole day without seating, no society boxes, lack of wifi etc. RGK accepted their comments and explained that as this was the first Union Day being run in this manner, there were definitely lessons to be learned and that it may be that next year, Union Day would be held at Waterside.

JB (Societies Officer) asked if any businesses had been invited to Union Day that had not made deals with the SU that were themselves competing for SU business. RGK replied that there had been some instances where people were not authorised to be at Union Day and were touting for business but Council officials had been present who removed such people from the area.

JV (Mature Students' Officer) explained that he was receiving feedback about situations and incidents in Halls of Residence and asked why the Lettings Agency had been closed. RGK replied that the Students' Union should remain focused on doing the things it does well rather than continuing to do things that are not beneficial for the Union, such as Compton House. RGK explained that the contractual issue with Compton House placed the Students' Union in a conflict of interest legally in terms of dealing with the rights of the students. Now that issue has been resolved, the Union is in a stronger position to represent students when dealing with the University.

There were no further questions.

Votes For: 26

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Vote Result: Report accepted.

8(b) **VP Union Development** – Ryan Bradshaw

Key Items:

Launch of SU Talks

These are invited guests as speakers on a variety of themes such as Education, & LGBTQ. Funding was secured from Changemaker to get this going with the potential for it carry on in future years.

Freshers

Was split into commercial events taking place at the Platform and other events such as Treasure Hunt and so on for those not wanting to party taking place at Avenue or The Engine Shed.

Varsity

In recent years, the fierce competitiveness between Northampton and Derby has become a safety issue and so it has been decided to change this by approaching Bedford which is much closer to home. It is also being proposed that the concept be changed to a festival theme based on the idea of having a good day out, to include music etc and to encourage people to ‘have a go’ at a sport rather than the day to be a team only series of events.

Marketing

The Sabbatical Officers have been involved in the marketing on social media of events such as Freshers etc.

Questions:

S.A (Faculty Advocate) mentioned that he felt the Freshers wristbands were poor value for money.

JV (Mature Students’ Officer) asked whether Societies Varsity would continue. RB said that he was not sure how that would work out as yet. He went on further to explain that it was hoped that events such as ping-pong, the softer sports, would be included to encourage more inclusivity.

JH (LGBTQ Officer) felt that a there was a push towards non-drinking events but told hold those sorts of events at Avenue presented an issue where the venue would not be opened unless £200 was put through the till which is difficult to do when alcohol is not involved.

In addition, JH (LGBTQ Officer) mentioned there have already been some occasions where societies have been allocated rooms that are not appropriate for the numbers in attendance, given that Avenue is only open two days a week now. JH (LGBTQ Officer) expressed his disagreement with how societies are currently being treated in this way. RB replied he would endeavor to find other areas and spaces that were more appropriate for societies.

There were no further questions.

Votes For: 26

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Vote Result: Report accepted.

8(c) **VP Education** – Gemma Lovegrove

Key Items:

Changes to the Student Representatives system including changing their title from Representatives to Advocates, changing the concept to one that is more developmentally focused.

Re-established the Student Voice Working Group chaired by VP-Education to discuss changes or development to place students in the decision making with the university. Includes the Deans of the University and has been working well so far.
Faculty Advocates – work with the is progressing well.

BME Mandate left for the sabbatical officers

Still working on the feasibility of anonymous marking with the University.

Working with Changemaker on a BME event.

Speaking to MU BME officer

Heavily promoting and supporting the NUS campaign on BME and have been invited to speak at Aston University

Attended NUS closing the attainment gap workshops and speaking to Kingston regarding their progress and future plans

Student interfacing regarding assistance with disciplinaries and academic misconduct panels and the appeals process.

No questions.

Votes For: 26

Votes Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Vote Result: Report accepted.

8(d) **VP Welfare** – Shangyin Ji

Key Items:

Have spent last three months easing into the role and learning about the University and the Students' Union.

Working well with the Sabbatical Officer team to make sure welfare is included in the strategic direction of the SU

Working hard at establishing relationships with relevant university personnel to establish a student voice on welfare matters.

SC (Volunteering) left the meeting at this point having obtained prior permission from the Chair.

SJ has spent two days at the Mental Health First Aid training for student-facing staff paid for by Student Mind which organizes for staff to obtain 'train the trainer' training.

Working on plans for monthly events on Wellbeing Wednesdays to consider a variety themes with the first taking place this month on LGBTQ affairs.

Have set up a Welfare Working Group including the university's Mental Health group, Student Life groups, NHS representatives to meet, discuss and resolve student issues.

Spent the summer supporting incoming international students and doing presentations to them.

Questions:

A question was raised as to whether ASSIST and MH was still being split over both campuses. JH (LGBTQ Officer) confirmed that staff were still travelling between both campuses.

Clarification was requested as to communication on social media regarding events taking place on Wellbeing Wednesdays. SJ confirmed he would advertise events going forward well in advance on social media and include further detail in his next report.

JV (Mature Students' Officer) noticed that the main focus of SJ's report was focused a predominantly on international students and wondered what SJ had done over the summer months. SJ replied that he had been involved in assisting international students with visa's and airport transfers as well as participating in international student welcome week where he did a series of presentations to Freshers regarding lifeskills. GL also explained that SJ administers the local, well subscribed GroupChat for international students which is an international WeChat facility.

There were no further questions.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 In Absentia: 1

Vote Result: Report accepted.

8(e) **Sports Officer** – Alex Lopez

Key Items:

First BUCS Wednesday has taken place with a few issues regarding transport and referees but a good start on campus nonetheless.

Talking to teams now that Freshers is over and starting to think about advertising for Sports Awards.

Looking for local partnerships and 'promoting partnerships with societies and the university.

Looking to push non-team sports events and considering how to engage societies and others and ensuring how teams are supported, particularly new ones.

Promoting health awareness in sports where SJ will be invited to assist with this.

No questions.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 In Absentia: 1

Vote Result: Report accepted.

- 8(f) **Societies Officer** – Jessica Burnside
None Submitted
- 8(g) **Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Students' Officer** – vacant role
- 8(h) **Disabled Students' Officer** – James Morrell

Key Items:

Has spent time over last few weeks looking at wheel chair access on Waterside. If anyone finds any issues please contact JM directly.

Setting up a series of weekly meet-ups in a safe place as Autocircle folded last year.

Working with VP Welfare on mental health and disability as a few issues have arisen that need resolution.

Working closely with LGBTQ Officer on transgender violence on Waterside.

Top priority this year is to have hearing loops installed everywhere on campus, in every classroom and building.

Have spoken to President and Sarah Woods (Unitemps) with regard to setting up a disabilities employment scheme.

Have received a few emails from students with regard to disabled parking and am setting up a meeting with ASSIST about a disability permit. Hoping this is resolved.

Questions:

S.A (Faculty Advocate) identified issues with the fire doors in the Senate and Learning Hub which are very heavy and some people are unable to manually open these. Issues regarding automatic doors in the Senate where people in wheelchairs have to go right up close to the door to get it open and then have to move very quickly which is not always possible, to get out of the way to allow the doors to open properly. The Chair pointed out that the Disabled Students' Officer was not responsible for the doors in the Senate but would be able to speak to the relevant people to attempt to get this resolved.

Issues were identified regarding water coolers on campus. RGK replied that he was aware of the issues and would be raising this problem with the university in another meeting, to include ensuring there are water point in multiple places on every floor in every building and that these, where not plumbed in, are frequently replenished by university staff

Issues regarding obtaining disabled permits was raised. It was identified that information being given out by ASSIST is potentially incorrect. It was also identified that the application process in itself can be costly where letters from medical professionals are required that can only be obtained by paying a fee. GL mentioned that parking personnel would accept County Council issued disabled badges as acceptable proof.

K.S (Faculty Advocate) raised as to what hearing loops are. It was explained that hearing loops are a piece of equipment that sits against a person's skull that serves to isolate peripheral noise in noisy environments so that the user can concentrate on conversation rather than what is going on in the background.

There were no further questions.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 In Absentia: 1

Vote Result: Report accepted.

8(i) **Entertainments Officer** – Chris Watkins

Key Items:

Students' Union events app is on hold until the marketing in the SU has been sorted out.

Continuing to encourage international student engagement and have been assisting VP Welfare with his work in this area.

Hosted a Rock and Roll bingo event to try and get more student engagement on a wider range of events.

No questions.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 In Absentia: 1

Vote Result: Report accepted.

8(j) **Ethics and Environment Officer** – vacant role

8(k) **International Students' Officer** – Imane Tiahi

None Submitted & not present.

8(l) **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Students' Officer** – Jack Hill

None Submitted

8(m) **Mature Students' Officer** – Jonathon Vobe

Key Items:

Has been investigating Nurseries as childcare is a large issue. It turns out the University is not willing to accept the risk. Will be speaking to Education Committee.

First aid course – trying to find time and dates on campus when these can take place as well as a CPR course.

Parking – still some issues going on. Accepted that the Union does not have control over this but we can still yell and shout but need Council to be full and well attended in order for us to be able to do this.

Questions:

The question as raised as to how JV, with regard to the nurseries issues, intended to encourage the university to change their policies whilst still continuing to support students. JV stated his intention to set up a support group to include students, local community groups and the university education lecturers to try and find a long-term solution to the issue.

There were no further questions.

Votes For: 24 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 In Absentia: 2

Vote Result: Report accepted.

8(n) **Postgraduate Students' Officer** – vacant role

8(o) **Women's Officer** - vacant role

8(p) **Changemaker Officer** – on leave

9. **Committee Meetings (ratify minutes)**

9(a) **Education Committee**

None submitted. The Education has not yet met this term.

9(b) **AU Committee**

Key Items:

Issue raised regarding the Wednesday Fixtures Policy. The current policy states that university should avoid having lectures on Wednesdays but will allow absences if for sports fixtures. Lectures have been timetabled by the University on Wednesdays which poses issues, particularly for away fixtures when teams need to travel. Students are having to choose between attending a sports fixture or attending a lecture and often, alternative opportunities for attending missed lectures are now not offered. It appears that the University is using a lot of ins and outs to get out of avoiding lectures on Wednesdays. Sports Officer to try and get the University to enforce the no lectures on Wednesdays Policy. RB stated he was happy that lecturers were willing to be flexible but acknowledged that issues with timetabling regarding buses and sports fixtures would need to be resolved.

A similar issue was raised by Gamechangers who are finding conflicts between attending Changemaker events and sports events when they want to be involved in both.

Issues have been raised regarding parking when loading and unloading sports kit and these have been identified to Jane Bunce..

Sports funding pots have not been confirmed as yet.

Issues with Moulton buses not yet resolved as regards to timetabling for sports fixtures.

Questions:

The LGBTQ officer asked if there was an update on the issue regarding the Rainbow shoelaces and video. Sports Officer replied that he had not heard anything further or had an update as yet from anywhere.

There were no further questions.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 In Absentia: 1

Vote Result: Report accepted.

9(c) **Societies Committee**

Key Items:

An issue was raised regarding Societies Committee being asked to vote to join two societies into one, based on the fact they are based on two separate campuses. JH expressed his opinion that Societies Committee did not understand the similarities between the two societies which could potentially result in the group receiving double funding for fronting the same activities for both locations. It was confirmed that Societies Committee had voted not to join into one society as the motion submitted suggested, but did say they had not felt comfortable in the process and further felt that it was not democratic.

Discussion took place regarding the potential for a re-vote based on better explanation of the motion but it was generally decided that this was an issue for Societies Committee to deal with rather than Student Council.

No questions.

Votes For: 25 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 In Absentia: 1

Vote Result: Report accepted.

9(d) **Volunteer and Social Enterprise Committee**

Chair had already left the meeting. Nothing further to add.

10. Any Other Business

Council Dates

Further Council Dates to be supplied in the minutes following this meeting. Dates as follows:

- 15 November 2018 (2)
- 6 December 2018 (3)
- 17 January 2019 (4)
- 21 February 2019 (5)
- 14 March 2019 (6)
- 2 May 2019 (7)

LMM (Non-Portfolio Councillor) requested support from Student Council for Remembrance Day. Volunteer and Social Enterprise students as well as any other interested students are encouraged to volunteer to assist with promoting Remembrance Day (11th November) to donate their time helping with the Poppy Appeal Collections. There are a variety of time slots and locations available. In support of this endeavor LMM submitted a Procedural Motion as follows:

1. **Procedural Motion**

A procedural motion number 12 (Officer Mandate) was submitted by LMM to mandate the Chairs of Committees and the Sabbatical Officers to assist with the promotion of Remembrance Day and Poppy Appeal Collections.

Votes For: 22 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 3 In Absentia: 1

Vote Result: Motion carried.

Alumni Access

The issue of Alumni being unable to access rooms or spaces where events are being held was raised. RGK stated he was trying to obtain a lanyard and card for such occasions with a procedure, rules and regulations for controlling the cards being in place to facilitate advance collection and return of the lanyards and cards.

The Sports Officer also raised issues with students having access to sports facilities and the reliance on security officers to do this. RB replied saying he had met with Jane Bunce who is aware of the issues. RB is working on a process to be approved by Jane Bunce to get keys handed over to the SU.

Student Information Desk (SID)

Societies Officer raised an issue regarding information and misinformation coming from the SID and the SID being overwhelmed by the volume of students. RGK asked for the message to be emailed to him so that the issues can be raised at the university's Operational Steering Group

LGBTQ Officer asked if there was a possibility for 2 or 3 other people being visible on campus to help and direct people. GL highlighted that there are ambassadors in light blue hoodies doing this. RGK agreed that more people are required and agreed to bring this up at the Operational Steering Group meeting.

Halls Committees

TEA (Societies Councillor) This topic was discussed during Council training and the fact that there is no-one to cover this student demographic. RGK mentioned that this was raised before with little appetite from students themselves, to take it up. This would need to be carefully thought out. It was identified that there is no-one currently to help Freshers when they experience issues, not knowing where to go or who to see. RGK suggested that these students be directed to the VP Welfare, email him and get some of his cards out into halls as a first point of contact.

UNO Buses and Timetabling

LGBTQ Officer raised two particular issues of the No 20 bus between Avenue and Waterside. The first issue is that some lectures have been timetabled at Avenue to finish at the end of an hour with the next lecture timetabled for the beginning of the following hour which means that students are at least 20 minutes late for lectures at Waterside. The second issue is that the buses are often full and waiting for the next bus means that students are even later for their lectures. Lecturers are now telling students to walk from Avenue to Waterside but that is inappropriate. Many students may not be physically able to do this.

RB said he had spoken to UNO who said that if they increase the frequency of the buses it would affect their profitability.

LGBTQ Officer submitted a procedural motion as follows:

2. Procedural Motion

A procedural motion number 12 (Officer Mandate) was submitted by JH to Mandate the VP-Union Development to increase the frequency of the number 20 bus and to have double decker busses on the route to increase capacity.

Votes For: 24 Votes Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 In Absentia: 1

Vote Result: Motion carried.

Items for the Agenda

To be emailed to su.democracy@northampton.ac.uk

No other AOB items.

Meeting closed at 20h15.

End.

Members in attendance overleaf:

Appendix A

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

	Name	Initials	Role	Attendance
Executive Committee	Raf Garcia-Krailing	R.G.K	President	Present
	Ryan Bradshaw	R.B	Vice President Union Development	Present
	Gemma Lovegrove	G.L	Vice President Education	Present
	Shangyin Ji	S.J	Vice President Welfare	Present
	Jessica Burnside	J.B	Societies Officer	Present
	Chris Watkins	C.W	Entertainments Officer	Present
	Alex Lopez	A.L	Sports Officer	Present
	James Morrell	J.M	Disabled Students' Officer	Present
	Jonathon Vobe	J.V	Mature Students' Officer	Present
	Imane Tiahi	I.T	International Students' Officer	Not present, no apologies
	Amanda Ash	A.A	Changemaker Officer	Not present, sent apologies
Jack Hill	J.H	LGBTQ Students' Officer	Present	
Education Committee	Komal Salah Ud Din	K.S	Business and Law	Present
	Sadie Wood	S.W	Health and Society	Present
	Rhianna Hodgkins	R.H	Education and Humanities	Present
	Samantha Cheryl Dorywala	S.D	Education and Humanities	Present
	Louise Dowson	L.D	Education and Humanities	Present
	Amber May Rawlins	A.R	FAST	Present
	Samuel Arnold	S.A	FAST	Present
	Ben Gibson	B.G	FAST	Not present, no apologies
Non-Portfolio	Lawrence McKenzie - Mockridge	L.M.M	Non-Portfolio Rep	Present
	Zoe Pape (Chair)	Z.P	Non-Portfolio Rep	Present
	Adedotun Adebawale	A.A	Non-Portfolio Rep	Not present, no apologies
Societies Committee	Ahmed Osama Basil	A.O.B	Societies Rep	Absent, sent apologies
	Taryn Elizabeth Astle	T.E.A	Societies Rep	Present
	Deniz Jordan Bal	D.J.B	Societies Rep	Not present, no apologies
	Fergal Dominic Clancy	F.D.C	Societies Rep	Present
AU Committee	Sebastian Antaki	S.A	AU Rep	Not present, no apologies
	Girl???		AU Rep	Present
	Tom Weaver	T.W	AU Rep	Present
	Kate Parsons	K.P	AU Rep	Present
	Natasha Weasley (Deputy Chair)	N.W	AU Rep	Present

	Scott Hinsley	S.H	AU Rep	Not present, no apologies
Volunteerin sb	Sarah Crooks	S.C	Volunteering and Social Enterprise Rep	Present