**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON STUDENTS’ UNION**

**MEETING OF THE VOLUNTEERING AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE**

**Tue 06.11.2018**

**PRESENT:** Sarah Crooks (SC, Chair and Rotaract), Ryan Bradshaw (RB, VUPD), Tom Carter (TC) Aryam Daniel (AD, STAR) Samantha Hernandez (SH, Rotaract), Jonathon Vobe (JV, Marrow) Abdul Amman (AA, Marrow) Dominik Cpack (DC. Buddies) Daniel Smith-Barnes (DB, UONTV) Samuel Arnold (SA NURadio), Hannah Jones (HJ, United Amayi)

**MINUTES: Tom Carter (TC)**

**APOLOGIES:**  NONE

**ATTENDANCE:** Buddies, Marrow, NURadio, Rotaract, STAR,UONTV, United Amayi

**1/18** **Welcome and Apologies**

SC opened the meeting, there were no apologies, all groups present

**2/18 Declaration of Interest**

 N/A

**3/18 Terms of Reference (updated)**

 Action – TC to send this out before each meeting so groups can refresh their memory. Send to United Amayi as they have not seen this yet.

**4/18 Minutes of the Meeting**

Accepted

**5/18 Action List and Matters Arising**

**None**

**Discussion Items**

**6/18 Electing Vice Chair, Secretary (Councillors)**

SC introduced the two vacant positions and that they include seats on Student Council

RB described how Student council and the role this plays in trying to effect change within the Union and the University itself.

JV described his role on student council and how important it is.

SC highlighted that Council is once a month, so not a massive burden.

HJ asked about what the Vice Chair role entails.

RB stated the responsibilities a a stand in if the Chair is absent.

HJ stated she would be willing to stand as VC

TC says he will continue to do minutes if that would convince someone to take Secretary role

SH asked exactly what the role involves

TC stated the roles of secretary

SH stated she was willing to stand in role of Secretary

SC put both candidates to the vote

**Vote carried all agreed**

**Hannah Jones as Vice Chair of VSEC**

**Samantha Hernandez as Secretary of VSEC**

**7/18 Society Varsity**

RB described how society Varsity works as a Competition with Derby Student Union as a friendly competition. He encouraged the groups to think about competing – ideally, email him at ryan.bradshaw@northampton.ac.uk If they are interested. The SU can put you in touch with rival groups at Derby.

JV asked if there was a Marrow group at Derby

TC said we can find out.

HJ asked how the competition would work

RB said it can be anything you like so long as both teams agree.

TC suggested that groups have previously done things like competitive fundraising, or even just played games to decide a winner – more about taking part and having fun than being competitive.

**Action TC –look into Derby Marrow group**

**8/18 Group Funding**

RB passed this subject over to TC

TC suggested that as many of the committees didn’t make it to committee training and because of the website issues it was worth going over how groups can access funding. Described the top up funding process and encouraged the groups to think about making applications.

RB described how the allocations Committee works, its makeup and how they make decisions.

TC encouraged groups to start making plans for the year and put together bids for the money.

**Standard Agenda Items**

**9/18 Changemaker Update**

N/A – Changemaker Officer position needs to go into bye-election

**10/18 Officer reports**

RB having trouble with big screen so will just run through report verbally, trying to orientate his report to each committee as much as possible and keep it relevant.

Spoke about SUTalks – Mathew Burton coming in next week to speak about education and lgbtq issues/

Working with Daily Bread a local charity looking at healthy food and food waste, organics and food ethics. Hoping they will come in to talk to students about healthy eating.

Community Connectors project, discussed idea of stimulating community events on campus, but has found it would be very expensive and time consuming – put idea to the group about whether they think it is a good idea to try to create community projects on campus.

Wants to know more about what volunteering groups do, wants their ideas, their successes so we can push engagement on social media. Encouraging groups to come and speak to him about issues and try to help. Especially wants to help with events, maybe looking at extra money.

JV asked if the community connectors would be replacing the idea of a Halls Committee. The University are looking to do something similar to Community Connectors and encouraged Ryan to talk to them.

RB stated that he has a meeting booked in with the University team to work together on ideas. Lee Craven is the University Officer involved.

JV asked for a full copy of the VPUD report – Ryan will send it out

AD asked what for more information on Daily Bread?

RB described the company and suggested that we are looking to tie them into wellbeing activity and encouraging students to use healthy cheap food. One idea is that they might have a pop-up outside the Engine Shed to do cooking demonstrations. We need to work alongside the university to make sure they will allow us to use outside spaces.

JV asked about what the Union has in the way of cooking facilities if groups wanted to do cooking demonstrations or food events, such as barbeques or mini-ovens.

RB said he will look into it.

**Action RB to look at what catering facilities we can provide.**

**11/18 Ratification of New Groups**

**United Amayi**

HJ described what United Amayi is. Charity set up by alumni Emma Leering, teaching women in Malawi and fighting for women’s rights. Society wants to bring people together to work on projects on female empowerment and education. Wants to run lots of events based around public speaking. Want to collaborate with other groups for fundraising, particularly Geography Society who have chosen to fundraise for United Amayi.

JV asked for more details about what activities the groups would be doing.

HJ said that they would like to help fundraise for the charity, but the main focus will be campaigning raising awareness.

They have a quiz event in Starbucks on Friday 6pm to help raise money for the charity.

Already have a lot of interested members, around 90 people have shown interest. Have around 20 active members at the moment.

JV asked if they might work alongside Changemaker to work on empowering women in this country too?

HJ said they hadn’t got that far as they are new but they are very interested in broadening the work beyond Malawi and do more domestic work.

SC put the ratification to the vote

**Vote Carried Unanimously**

 **United Amayi Society ratified**

**12/18 De-ratification of Groups**

Non-applicable

**13/18 AOB**

SC: Rotaract’s volunteer project has fallen through this month, does anyone have a volunteer project that they need help with this month

AD said that they need help with their volunteer project working with refugees on a Friday evening.

SC: asked for the details and said Rotaract would be very willing to help.

DC raised the issue of the non-existent website. Expressed his frustration about it.

RB described the issue with the website and the data issue with the University – we need them to sort out their error so that Freshers can be added. We are working on it. When we finally get the website up we will have a big marketing push to try to get the numbers involved. Maybe not a Union Day but some kind of Refreshers event which lets people know we have a new site and what Societies, groups and clubs we have.

TC discussed idea of using Learning Hub space to promote groups in the new- year with an SU stand and encouraging sign-ups.

JV asked for a definitive date for the new website

RB stated we can’t make a commitment. We need it for Bye-elections, and it is close, but really can’t offer a solid date.

JV suggested creating paper forms so that groups can sign students up manually. Says the Engine Shed is not an approachable building and it’s putting students off. States that the layout of furniture makes the place unwelcoming and that reception is not very helpful. Stated that it doesn’t feel like a student space. Suggests some kind of focus group with students where they can feedback what they would prefer in terms of layout.

HJ confirmed that when she first came into the Engine Shed she didn’t know where to go when she first came in, it wasn’t very obvious.

JV suggested we need to find a balance between staff needs and making students feel welcome.

RB will take suggestions on how to rearrange the furniture to make it better.

SA asked about treasurer training as he’s not had any.

TC said that Treasurer training was put off because of the new website, but recognises that Treasurers need some help for now. The SU will put on some training sessions for treasurers so get in touch and we will arrange them.

DB wanted to let everyone to know what UONTV does. Encouraged groups to come to them if they would like videos made and help put some projects together, suggested they get in touch via facebook if they are interested.

RB said SU would be interested in working with UONTV on putting more content out on social media.

SA asked about the progress with the Radio Studio for NURadio.

TC updated on the situation on the studio and that the finance is now sorted so work can progress. He is work into finding a temporary space they can work in until the new studio at St John’s is complete.

JV asked about Nightline and whether they are aware of heightened issues about campus problems and within the university, particularly in regards to fireworks incident.

RB suggests that we are aware of the problems. With regards to the fireworks incident on campus he wants to clarify the situation before we know exactly what action can be taken. Need to know if it was students or non-students before we can make any decisions about how to proceed in cooperation with the University. Will bring the issue to council.

**Actions**

**TC to put treasurer training sessions together**

**RB to look at options for relaying Engine Shed furniture**

**RB to report back on campus safety re: fireworks incident**

**14/18 Date of next meeting:** 27th November 2018, Engine Shed 6pm-8pm