**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON STUDENTS’ UNION**

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

**08/01/19**

**PRESENT: Ryan Bradshore (RB) Sarah Crooks (SC) Tom Carter (TC), Leah Challis (LC), Jonathon Vobe (JV) Hannnah Jones (HJ) , Paul Dinsmore (PD), Jerusha Ujanga (JU), Aryam Daniel (AD), Charley Vaughan (CV), Victoria Price (VP),  Zuzanna Duda (ZD), Michael Jupiter (MJ)**

**MINUTES: TC**

**APOLOGIES: UONTV**

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

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

SC opened the meeting UONTV sent apologies.

**2/18 Declaration of Interest**

None

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

Circulated prior to meeting

**4/18 Minutes of the Meeting**

Accepted as read

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

None

**Discussion Items**

**6/18 Refreshers**

RB introduced Refreshers and mini-union day in learning hub 10am-2pm, not as big as the main union day, but should be a better engagement area for students. Groups need to let us know if you want a stall asap. Website should hopefully be ready for it so clubs can sign people up.

**7/18 Student Volunteer Week**

TC introduced SVW 11th–15th February, National Week designed to promote student volunteering activities. Encouraged groups to think about organising events/fundraisers during that week to help create an interesting programme of events. Also reported that the SU is looking to use the week as a focal point for some Green Impact activities, maybe litter picks and other environmental projects would be great if groups could support.

**8/18 Green impact**

RB introduced what Green Impact is, an NUS campaign to encourage SU’s to be environmentally sustainable and campaign for change. RB is working on the idea of a campaigning on food waste, sensible shopping and healthy eating. Would like some groups to help get involved in supporting it.

JU asked about thinking about reducing plastic waste, maybe look at straws and cups.

TC said SU did a campaign on plastic straws and reusable drink bottles last year.

RB said that part of the campaign would focus on shopping locally at places that don’t use plastic, like the Daily Bread and the market.

JU asked for more details on the Daily Bread.

RB said they are a local cooperative which focuses on environmentally friendly, fairtrade, ethical healthy food. You can buy a lot of things loose so that you can buy just what you need and reduce wastage.

**Standard Agenda Items**

**9/18 Changemaker Update**

JV asked RB if he found out if the Changemaker role can be filled.

RB said that the Democracy Manager has sent him the process and that anyone who would like to fill the role can stand by submitting a manifesto, which will then be voted on in Student Council.

JV asked about whether the Changemaker Officer meets regularly with Changemaker.

TC said he asked, and no, they haven’t been.

JU said that changemaker need to become more prominent as they do good things and it should be a major selling point for the University. It would be good to have an officer in place to help raise this with students.

AD suggested that they are trying to become more prominent especially through social media

JU suggests it’s a communication issue, that we don’t shout enough about things.

TC suggested that is something we are keen to do during SVW, use case studies to promote the volunteering that happens on and off-campus.

JV suggested that anyone interested in standing as Changemaker Officer would need to do so before 7th Feb to go to the next council.

JU asked how to apply

JV described process

HJ asked about website progress

RB said it is close to being finished, Lincoln have had to take over as York made a mess of it, but they are nearly finished building the replacement site.

JV asked about the terms and conditions of the website and whether we are getting what we asked for.

RB said he will look into it.

TC described the new link we have to sign up students who are not members of the SU, a simple web-link and click box which should activate student membership within 3 days. Much more simplistic process than before

JV asked about when the deadline will be for getting the students to register for elections

RB said he will look at it

**Action RB to find out deadline for registering students onto system for elections.**

**10/18 Officer reports**

RB has mainly been focused on refreshers – drink and club based events are happening at Platform and Avenue all week, with more fun, non-alcoholic events running at Engine Shed during the week.

SU talks Akala 21st January and Gareth Thomas coming in February

Ryan described the problems with the marketing of the SU events and how limited it is. We are now working with MOBAS.

HJ suggested going through NILE and Learning Hub boards to reach out to students.

RB wants SU Events to become a more prominent brand and try to bring in lots of different demographics, especially under-represented groups.

Adopt a Railway station –would we be interested in adopting Northampton railway station. LNW trains have approached the SU about working in partnership, students could volunteer at the railway station, do planting, art installations, fundraising etc.

JV asked what is in it for the railway?

TC suggested it is part of their corporate responsibility programme, gives them good publicity, also helps improve the station environment.

RB looking at sports facility in Towcester – might take on more of the sports clubs league fixtures, especially Bucs level sports to free up facilities on Waterside for more welfare – fun based activities.

JU asked about whether physiotherapy might be involved in these sports facilities as many of her cheerleading group get injuries and could use extra help.

RB said he would look into it. Asked about Marketing if groups have anything they would like help promoting.

HJ said United Amayi are looking to re-organise their launch event and would like help promoting it.

JV asked about the 5% cashback deal with Avenue –

RB we have lost a lot of business so any group who uses avenue for events can get a 5% share of the evenings takings.

JV asked about the minimum spend and who got rid of it.

RB doesn’t know and will try to find out what happened to it

SC said that Rotaract and United Amayi both had a pub quiz on the same evening, which might have diluted participant numbers. Can we have some kind of system that avoids clashes in the future.

TC suggested new events page on the website should help with that as it will act as a hub for all SU events, so we should be very quickly able to see if there are clashes and either move or amalgamate events. Hopefully should also help promote the groups.

JV asked about the 80p rate for Midsummer Meadows car park – suggested the rate should be for three hours for students as many need more time.

SC asked why people would park there when Morrison’s is free

RB suggests that you might get fined at Morrison’s. He is trying to work on the parking situation for students, currently a battle between the University, the Council and local community over student parking. Someone needs to bend to sort the situation out.

JV suggested evening parking for students as most lecturers leave by 5:30

RB said he is working on it, trying to get the University to relax their parking restrictions but it is not a quick process.

**11/18 Ratification of New Groups**

Northampton Student News:

PD described the need for a student news group – most professional journalists start at University level, so it would provide a vital career development. Student newspapers can be very high quality and vital to university life – not just advertising for SU and University, but break real stories and make a wider impact. Gave example of Belfast SU newspaper breaking a real story of Academic Misconducts going unpunished. Can also cover lighter subjects like music journalism as students are a great market for big acts etc, wants it to be a real opportunity for students and bring real value to the university. Vision is to produce something in the vein of private eye –humour and investigative journalism combined. Want it to be an open platform for students to submit articles – editorial committee would supervise for quality and legal issues – maybe a quarterly hard copy and a website that bridges the gap. Real appetite for it on campus.

JV asked about paper uses –would we use recycled paper – and distribution where would you distribute.

PD said it would be distributed free on campus

JV asked about if there would be an online version

PD said yes there would

HJ said it would be great for putting pressure on University and give students a voice

PD agreed it should be real journalism that has an impact and helping people gain skills and develop their employability. Could work really well to give a voice to students, which is why they want an open submission policy – can give a voice to marginalised groups.

RB – suggested could very easily tie in with other media groups

PD – very inspired to be ambitious with the group – stuff being in print motivates people to pay attention and makes the powers that be listen.

SC Put ratification of Northampton Student News to the Vote

**All Agreed, Northampton Student News Ratified**

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

Non-applicable

**13/18 AOB**

JV raised issue of referendum to remain affiliated as a member of NUS– wants the groups to help raise issue of the referendum and campaigning to make sure that students are aware of the issues involved.

HJ asked what we get from the NUS, what are the benefits?

JV suggested that being part of national campaigns and political decision making, and that SU can seek advice and empower students.

HJ asked how they empower students?

JV suggested they help to teach students on running campaigns etc. So he wants us to run a campaign to help promote the NUS and what it does. Stated that SU’s funding could be cut if we don’t have the NUS protecting us.

SC asked if HJ was aware she has a seat on council as part of her role as Vice Chair as she missed the last meeting.

HJ said she hadn’t realised that the Vice Chair gave her a seat on Council, and that now she is aware she will attend.

SC gave Hannah the dates of next council.

AD said that now STAR have a full committee so have a lot of plans – can TC make sure that all the new committee get the invites to VSEC

**Action for TC to make sure they are included on mailing list.**

RB brought up the idea that each group committee should have a welfare role as part of the committee –wanted groups feedback on the idea.

HJ suggested that for small groups it might be very difficult – can’t see that it would work, many know each other in a small group and already look out for each other.

SC thinks it is putting a lot of pressure on the student who takes on the role.

TC stated that the proposal is that those students would get training in mental health first aid.

HJ suggested it is seems a big cost to train students in welfare, but wouldn’t have a great impact. Not very cost effective.

JV suggested that it might be done through a development committee – who might sit in on groups to try to spot welfare issues and suggest how groups can change.

HJ suggested that another committee is unnecessary faff and creating more work, could we not just build it into a role within the existing committee, like a mental health PTO. Another committee would just be unnecessary bureaucracy and create work for people.

SC feels like it is a nice idea on paper but doesn’t feel it is practical.

RB feels confident to go to council and say that VSEC are not in favour of the welfare being made a committee role.

JV said that it might be good for large groups that don’t necessarily all know each other, but not practical for smaller groups.

SC suggests having someone sit on VSEC and all the other committees.

Ryan suggested mandating Welfare SAB to attend VSEC and take a more active role in welfare of groups.

JU asked do you have to be a graduate to stand in Sab roles would be interested in BME role although she is a second year

JV said you can take a year out to do it.

RB recommended not taking on a role in its first year, as it’s difficult to take on a new role that has not necessarily been well developed. He also suggested taking a year out is not the best option as you might want to do a second year in office, but wouldn’t be able to as you would have to finish your degree.

AD asked about whether Rotaract wanted to collaborate on Varsity.

SC said they would be happy to.

JU suggested that Radio might be interested in taking part too.

JV suggested looking at whether there were any more groups looking to link up together.

JU asked if we can have some kind a unified group online so that all the clubs can talk to each other, share information and support.

RB said he will set up a VSEC page for all the groups on facebook.

AD asked if she could check if STAR have their classroom booked for their English classes this term.

**Action TC to check STARs booking of meeting room on Wednesday evenings with reception.**

**14/18 Date of next meeting:**

**5/2/19 in the Engine Shed.**