**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON STUDENTS’ UNION**

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

**28/02/2019**

**PRESENT: Tom Carter (TC), Jonathon Vobe (JV) Sarah Crooks (SC), Paul Dinsmore (PD) Hannah Jones (HJ) Jerusha Ujanga (JU)**

**MINUTES: TC**

**APOLOGIES: NONE**

**ATTENDANCE: Rotoract, Buddies, Marrow, United Amayi, NURadio, The Gander**

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

SC opened the meeting. No appologies recieved

**2/18 Declaration of Interest**

NA

**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 Committee Elections**

TC asked about difficulties for groups getting signed up online and nominating.

HJ United Amayi have got three people interested in the committee but none have been able to opt in on time

TC we will get everyone signed up and on the system for a bye election, but do not worry, we can also add people to committee roles manually if we are still having difficulties. We don’t want groups to fold due to our own technical problems.

**TC to ensure all groups get opted in time for bye elections**

**Standard Agenda Items**

**9/18 Changemaker Update**

NA

**10/18 Officer reports**

Ryan read his report during Hustings.

**Accepted as read**

**11/18 Ratification of New Groups**

NA

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

NA

**13/18 AOB**

SC Elsies Café setting up a shop where you can buy food that is going to landfill – either for a donation or in exchange for volunteering hours. Rotaract have done a bit of work with them. It’s in St James’s. Can we get the SU involved in helping them, maybe as part of Green impact?

TC will pass this on to Ryan as he is leading the Green impact project.

SC Rotaract have also spoken to someone about mindfulness classes– woman who runs a 6 week programme where you can attend and learn about how to improve your mental health. University doesn’t have a lot of stuff for promoting mental health before you have a crisis.

TC maybe talk to Shang-yin as Wellbeing is his remit.

SC could we look at hosting and funding?

JV Shang Yin might have some budget, depends on the costs.

PD noted that it can be difficult for people with certain problems, people with depression need to avoid mindfulness as it is not good for them. Would be important to make sure this is noted.

TC send me the details and I will forward it to Shang-yin

PD Wanted to bring to people’s attention that students can now submit articles to The Gander.

SC asked what kind of things they want?

PD subjects can be anything and everything, at least 300 words, so long as its coherent. There will be an editorial process, won’t just publish any old rubbish, but we have an open submission process.

JU has said that the Sound Technician from her course will happily come up and set up the Radio studio, just need to let him know when.

TC will ensure the equipment is moved up before the end of next week.

JV asked if Radio could get involved in the election announcements

JU we could interview sabs after elections and introduce the new sabs to people.

SC asked about help with recruiting members and a new committee for Rotaract. How can the SU help?

TC suggested going through lecturers, often a good way of getting to students.

JV also suggested going through Changemaker

HJ suggested going to postgrad tutors.

TC suggested there is a new Global Leaders group who have expressed an interest in volunteering, might be a good mix as a lot of their aims overlap with Rotaract. Will try and put you in contact through Karolin.

JU asked about Debate Society do we have one?

PD said we have a Political Debates, is on the committee. Meet on Wednesday 4:30 in the Senate. We have a facebook page.

JU can’t do that time, any interest in moving dates?

PD we might look at that, has been suggested before that we might get more attendees at a different time. We are desperate to encourage more members.

We have also been approached by a Secondary School teacher looking to set up a debating society and whether if Political Debate helped them set up it would class as volunteering.

TC we can certainly help facilitate it.

JU asked about if we could have some kind of outdoor festival in the summer for clubs and society on campus – show themselves off to students. Maybe stalls lining the pavements?

TC We can have a look at it, I will pass the idea onto Ryan.

PD Would be great if we could do something similar for Freshers, didn’t like the Market Square.

JU agreed, not sure that many Freshers can be bothered to walk up to town, much better if it’s on campus.

HJ agreed, it was great to be able to hear last years from halls, gave the campus a buzz.

JU asked about the Platform and the fact that it is not representing the different groups and not diverse enough. Not enough live music etc. should have some student input into the Platform and getting events on that students actually want.

HJ agreed, too many club nights, not enough diversity.

PD suggested that there is never live music with bands, always just DJs.

TC it is hard now that the Platform is a separate entity from the Charity, most of our staff have little to do with it.

JV suggested a Platform Committee for students- so they can put suggestions forward for what kind of nights they want.

TC will suggest it to Ryan.

JU also asked about funding for groups, how it works, how we can protect them from cuts?

JV explained how funding works through Student Council.

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

26th April, 6pm Engine Shed