

Student Council Minutes

October 10th 2022

Chair

Annemarie Deeb (AD) – Education Officer

Staff

Megan Robertson (MR) – Campaigns & Democracy Coordinator

Apologies

Rhiannon Jenkins – President

Archie Robinson – Sports Officer

Attendance

Nic Farmer (NF) – Liberation Officer

Jack McDonald (JM) – Activities Officer

Hoor Pathan (HP) – Wellbeing Officer

Adz Morgan (AM) – Accessibility Officer

Trisha Spencer (TS) – Mature & Part-Time Students' officer

Ashton Mallard (AMa) – Trans & Non-Binary Officer

Jade Rowe (JR) – LGBT+ Officer

Sai Sai Muruges Geethanjali (SSMG) – International Students' Officer

Aisha Awal (AA) – Network Representative

Barry Yang (BY) – Network Representative

Dhivya Tamilselvan (DT) - Network Representative

Anushree Muraleedharan Nair (AMN) – Network Representative

Erin Flood (EF) – Boat Club Representative

Thomas Slade (TS) – American Football Representative & Sports Council

Maria Carolina Pernas (MCP)

Yeshwanth Nathan (YN)

Jake Vickery (JV)

Riya Mathew (RM)

Urvashi Sandal (US)

Frankie Lau (FL)

Aishatu Awal (AA)

Maria Cordina (MC)

Avtar Singh (AS)

Anand Kulkarni (AK)

Jade Thomas (JT)

Introduction

AD welcomed everyone online and in-person to the meeting, going through the agenda and asking attendees to register their attendance.

Meet your Officers

AD then introduced herself and welcomed other elected Officers to introduce themselves to students, if present. This include NF, JM, HP, AM, TS, JR, and AMa. AD then introduced SSMG who was attending online.

Sticky Campus Update

AD gave RJ's update in their absence. She updated that student feedback led to many changes through societies, and facilities, which can be found on the President's Instagram where there is an update post at @leicspresident.

Representation System Explained

AMD introduced MR who went over the different roles in the representation system and where these lead. The flowchart will be able on the Student Council webpage soon.

Teaching Excellence Framework

AD gave an update on TEF, explaining that a survey (QR code available on the PowerPoint provided) is available for students to fill in to give their feedback on their teaching so far in their degree (excluding first year students). AD highlighted that this information will be going to TEF who is the regulatory body for teaching in England.

Proposal – Sustainability Officer

AD moved onto the proposal segment of the evening. Explaining that a proposal has been raised by JM to establish a new part-time officer for sustainability. She asked JM to give a short speech of 2 minutes maximum to explain the proposal. He raised that the role is part of his remit but he wanted to have a specific student focused on it who can run their own activities while still feeding into the Executive Committee, including himself. He then opened the floor to comments or questions.

TS asked whether this Officer could have representatives to assist in their work and collecting feedback. JM said this could be possible depending how the role goes but they would not be taking on the majority of work and would still be supported by himself. AM added that there could be a specific rep on each network for this role.

NF raised that additional reps may make the role harder as there are already representatives at different levels that can feedback to this new PTO as well as JM.

AD then asked if there were any comments or statements against the proposal. There were not and so directed people to fill in the voting form.

MR reviewed and verified the votes after the meeting. There were a total of 18 votes with 16 in favour, 1 against, and 1 abstention. The proposal passes.

Food & Feedback

AD then gave a ten minute break for those in attendance to have some pizza. Those in person and online could submit ideas and comments on the question 'What do you want from campus?' but no suggestions were made. Attendees were informed they can also send suggestions directly to Officers or the su-voice email.

Trustee Approval

AD then explained that Student Council needs to decide whether to endorse the new appointments to Trustee Board. She informed attendees that after the end of the last academic year, we were left with two gaps amongst our external trustees. When we knew people were leaving, the trustee board undertook a skills audit to ensure the new people who have been recruited will be able to cover the skills of the people they are replacing. The skills identified for replacement were HR, Liberation expertise and University sector experience.

She noted three suggestions had been made.

The first person the Recruitment Panel would like to formally appoint as a full member of the Trustee Board is Melz Owusu. Melz is an academic expert in Liberation in Universities, with an activist background from their time in Students' Unions. Melz will be able to provide invaluable support to the Students' Union in ensuring we are as inclusive an organisation as possible. They meet a core skill set identified as needed on the Board.

The second person the Recruitment Panel would like to formally appoint as a full member of the Trustee Board is Julia Bates. Julia is a senior HR Director, with experience in the Arts Sector and in Charity Sector. Julia will be able to provide invaluable support to the Students' Union in developing our processes and practices to support our staff, helping ensure we're a good employer. They meet a core skill set identified as needed on the Board.

In addition, the Recruitment Panel would like to invite Abi Black to attend Trustee Board as an Observer, to help their development over the coming year as they have a range of experience in an area identified as required on the Trustee Board. The panel felt they have a wealth of experience that they can already bring from their experience as a staff member working in student engagement in the University sector. The year as a non-voting observer will help them in their development and understand whether they wish to join us as a trustee with their experience in a year's time when another vacancy will arise.

AD asked the attendees if there were any objections. There were not and so the new trustees were endorsed by Student Council.

Meet your Representatives

AD asked if any other representatives attending would like to introduce themselves to students. No one came forward.

Updates & Upcoming Opportunities

AD then asked the Executive Officers to give a brief update on their main projects and any relevant opportunities.

NF started, asking students to fill in the Pronoun Survey available on the website and flagging that an LGBTQ+ Housing survey would also be available this week. This is to find out whether the LGBTQ+ community within the student body would benefit from LGBTQ+ only accommodation. He explained the Decolonise campaign would be having an open evening this month which can be found on the SU website's 'What's On' page. He then also raised that this page would also highlight the number of events for Black history Month stating that the ones held so far had been well received by students.

Next was JM, he updated that work was being done to improve communications and room booking services for student groups. Surveys to collect ideas and feedback from students would be coming out in November. JM also explained that Societies Council was being improved, and the Green Bubble forum for sustainability would be being held tomorrow.

JM then gave AR's update in his absence. This included explaining that the minibus scheme was no longer available. TS asked if groups would need their own driver but JM was not completely sure. EF then added that she had been discussing this with AR and that a driver would be needed however you should not need an additional license. JM then moved onto the Opportunities and Inclusion Fund, explaining that this had been improved to remove barriers especially those that International Students had experienced when trying to use it. JM went on to add that Sports Recognition including Fixture of the Week and Sports Person of the Month was now in place and running. Lastly, he mentioned Parasports Week would be happening next term and students could get involved.

HP then went over RJ's update as well as her own. For RJ's this included highlighting that work was being done to lobby the University and government, including MPs, to better support students. This also includes reviewing and improving processes in the University. For HP's own update, she went over the free breakfasts happening this week and that she was working to increase access as well as funding to University Hardship funds. There is also the 'Sensory Room' which is being worked on and is planned to open this year after further discussion with the University. HP is also working on bringing feedback from the Wellbeing and Inclusion Forum to the People, EDI, and Wellbeing Committee (PEDIWC). HP and JM are also picking up the work on the International Students' Group that was handed over from the previous Activities Officer, Manoj Kanikanti.

Lastly, AD gave her own update. This included Mitigating Circumstances and Self-Certification, policies are changing and information will be coming out soon on MC changes. Two assignments will get MCs with self-certification. On Academic Reps, Schools Reps are getting paid and volunteer Course Reps will receive benefits like merchandise. Regarding assessments, AD will be publicising information soon on work done as some regulations have prevented work on some concerns.

Close

AD closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and reminding them to fill in the TEF survey, if possible. They then flagged that the next meeting would be Wednesday 9th November.

Minutes compiled by MR on the 11th of October 2022.