

Minutes of the Student Officer Committee

16 October 2014

Key Discussions

- Refurbishment of Union House
- University Accommodation

Key Actions

- Elected T Etheridge as Part-Time Officer Trustee
- Elected C Jarvis as NUS Conference Lead Delegate
- Agreed to request University to make provision for students who wished to have accommodation in the centre of Norwich.

Voting Members present:

Josh Wilson (Ethical issues Officer), Dolly Ogunrinde (Women's Officer), Tom Southerden (Non Portfolio Officer), Max Levene (Students with Disabilities Officer), Liam McCafferty (PG Education Officer), Connor Rand (UG Education Officer), Yinbo Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer) Chris Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), Stela Glakousaki (International Officer), Tom Etheridge (Non Portfolio Officer), Liz Cody (Non Portfolio Officer), Iain Goddard (Environment Officer), Theo Antoniou Phillips (Non Portfolio Officer), Dan Wrigglesworth (LGBT+ Officer), Josh Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer)

Chair

Holly Staynor (Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer)

Non-Voting Members present:

Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive)

In attendance:

Tony Moore (Representation Support Worker), Lucy Scott (Head of Advice), Josh Clare (Head of Student Engagement), Jo Spiro (Director of Student Advocacy)

Apologies:

Freddie Redfern (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Oliver Steward (Postgraduate Officer)

1276 Departmental Presentation: Advice

L Scott gave a presentation on the work of the Advice Department.

C Rand noted the overwhelmingly positive feedback from students who had been referred to the Department.

1277 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October

L McCafferty noted that in the discussion on autonomous Officer budgets, the reference should have been minuted as 'the Mature Student Officer' rather than the GSA President.

With the above change, the minutes were agreed.

1278 Matters Arising

There were none.

1279 Action Log

C Rand noted the importance of establishing the General Election strategy in the immediate future. C Jarvis noted that the decision on the funding application to NUS had, yet again, been delayed but it was expected the following day. He noted he would be writing a strong letter to NUS to complain about the delays and that the Strategy would be an agenda item for the next SOC meeting.

C Jarvis, on the Faculty Convenor being paid employees of the Union situation, noted that he would bring a Bye-Law Amendment to Council, seeking to remove the Convenors' right to be co-opted on to Council as the Convenors would be able to serve on Council not ex-officio but as representatives of their School of Study.

C Jarvis noted that a meeting between SUS and the GSA would be rescheduled.

C Jarvis noted that the template and guidelines for funding requests would be presented to the next meeting.

Y Yu noted the priorities that would inform the Sportspark working group: S Glakousaki and T Southerden volunteered to be part of the group. D Ogunrinde suggested that all Clubs should be consulted as well as casual users. SOC noted the Sports Partnership meeting that would take place at the end of the month.

1280 Officer Trustee Election

SOC noted the resignation of T Antoniou-Phillips as Part-Time Officer Trustee on his becoming a student staff member.

S Glakousaki and T Etheridge stood for election.

T Etheridge was elected as Part-Time Officer Trustee.

1281 NUS Conference Lead Delegate Election

C Jarvis and C Rand stood for election.

C Jarvis was elected as Lead Delegate.

1282 Union House 2015: Consultation

J Dickinson presented a detailed report on the refurbishment of Union House.

He highlighted the possibility that further traces of asbestos might be found in the building's fabric and that the cost of removal might have to come from UUEAS' reserves.

He noted that the Equal Opportunities Committee's requirements on accessibility would be given to the Design Consultants as part of their brief and that all toilets would be gender neutral.

C Jarvis noted that the gender neutral policy called for some women-only facilities to be kept. J Dickinson advised that because of the lack of available space, some decisions would have to be taken but that he guaranteed that in the future provision there would be no urinals.

M Levene drew attention to the fact that there was, currently, no wheelchair access to the Blue Bar on LCR nights. J Dickinson advised that this was an operations matter; he would chase up and that access would be in place by the forthcoming weekend.

I Goddard asked about the provision of storage for Society's after the refurbishment. J Dickinson advised that UUEAS' storage capacity, as a whole, would double but that UUEAS would not be able to guarantee storage space for all Societies.

S Glakousaki and T Etheridge both asked about the provision of benches outside the building during Events. J Dickinson advised that the goal would be to have a coherent outside space.

J Dickinson advised that the next stage of the building plans would be brought to SOC in December; in the interim, reports on the asbestos surveying would be sent to Management Committee.

1283 Union Council Review

SOC agreed to Chair's proposal that policy implementation would be reviewed in two stages at the end of November and at the end of term with a report being considered at the first meeting of the

Spring Term. Officers will send reports on implementation to the Democracy and Governance Coordinator.

Policy implementation decisions:

Ethical Steering Group: C Jarvis, J Wilson, I Goddard

Democratic Workplace: C Jarvis

NUS Delegate Regulations: Chair, D Wrigglesworth and D Ogunrinde to draft letter to bring to SOC to send to NUS

General Election: C Jarvis, C Rand; was Priority Campaign is now a SOC Project; plan to be formed after NUS funding decision

DSA Cuts: M Levene, Chair, C Jarvis; public statement to be drafted in collaboration with NUA and City College, liaison with DOS

Assessment and Feedback: C Rand, L McCafferty, T Antoniou-Phillips, L Cody – to feed into UUEAS reps on University Council

University/Union Sport: Y Yu, working group to be set up after Sport Partnership meeting

PGs who Teach: L McCafferty, O Steward: PG Week will have launch of a giant Charter for PGs to sign, L McCafferty, O Steward and a staff member to be working group

1284 Officer Go Around Reports

L Cody: working on Joint Honours campaign, talking to academics about improving advisor system for JH students

T Etheridge: illness but noted that Livewire had been nominated for the Student Radio Association awards

C Rand: QAA event, NUS event on learning resources, assessment and feedback, the Hubs

J Wilson: developments as to cycle helmets project, developments on proposed cycle lanes for the Avenues

Theo Antonio-Phillips: assessment and feedback, Pride campaigns, helping set up American Studies Society

I Goddard: online communications for environmental societies, liaison over Green Flats

M Levene: researching for DSA and EOC, reported disgust that the transport to the TUC Demo was not accessible to students in wheelchairs. L McCafferty apologised profusely and made a commitment that this would never happen again.

H Staynor, Bin Walk, appearance on Mustard TV, BMT, liaising with national press as to accommodation, Mental Health campaign, housing video

Y Yu: University Council, TUC Demo, Asia Day, Sports Social

S Glakousaki: Asia Day almost complete, working on campaigns

L McCafferty: TUC demo, first Graduate Assembly, organising PG Week

C Jarvis: University Council, meeting Liberations Officers for Liberations Caucuses, Council training, over 80 Councillors trained, Living Wage talks with Unison invited to their meeting with the VC

D Wrigglesworth: working with Pride, NUS LGBT+ Conference planning, followed up issue with Schools over LGBT+ in Welcome Week

T Southerden: illness, meeting with Y Yu as to Sports

1285 Reports on Priority Campaign/Reports

Chair briefed SOC on developments in student housing and campus accommodation.

She noted that landlords will soon be required to ensure their properties meet required energy efficiency standards and that those properties which already met the standards would have a green logo on Home Run.

She noted that she had met the Head of Accommodation to discuss the University's rent pricing strategy.

She reported the plans for new campus based accommodation and the plans to close Mary Chapman Court.

SOC asked that the University be requested to make provision for students who wished to have accommodation in the centre of Norwich.

M Levene noted the importance of provision of Liberations' accommodation.

1286 Any Other Business

Chair asked the PTOs to attend Data Protection Training. Officers will register availability through a Doodle Poll.

C Jarvis noted the extraordinary success of the INTO Councillor election and the opportunity to harness the engagement of INTO students. SOC noted that Y Yu would be working with M Xiong, the INTO Councillor to develop a representation committee.

M Levene requested that the Shop provide a better dietary range. J Dickinson advised that he should meet with the relevant UUEAS staff to discuss this matter.

Officers will register availability for a proposed Day Out through a Doodle Poll.

D Ogunrinde noted to L Cody that she had experience of good cooperation between Schools on providing advisers for Joint Honours students and she would share this information with her.

1287 Time, Date and Place of next Meeting

5.00 pm, 23 October in a venue to be confirmed.