

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD STUDENTS' UNION Minutes

Meeting title: Student Senate

Location: Boardroom 1, Students' Union

Date: 17th November 2015

Time: 2pm

Present: Marina Hristova (Chair, part), Tanmay Barhale, Ade Abegunde, Ahmed Rafiq, Zamzam Ibrahim, Thomas Roberts, Dan Howarth, Mate Nagy, Shama Shafiq, Connor Keightley (Chair), Ben Deacon, Adebayo Adebayinka, Mohammad Khan, Claire Carey, Nikita Cranston, Lorna Haidak, Bethan Sykes, Irfan Rowell.

In attendance: Luke Newton (Clerk), Rhiannon Roberts

Apologies: Zuzanna Czyzowska, Charlie Stonier

Absent: Vacant positions: Languages and PGR rep

1. Rhiannon and Marina welcomes Senate members to the meeting.
2. Marina outlined the changes that had been made to the selection of student senate this year. As the University no longer had a college based structure the academic representation would now be drawn from schools. It was clarified that there were currently two places allocated to 'diverse' groups on student senate and that this motion would allow each of the seven 'diverse' groups a full vote at Student Senate.

The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Marina outlined the roles and responsibility of Chair of student senate. There were four candidates out forward, Claire Carey, Khan Mohammad, Adebayinka Adebayo, and Connor Keightley.

Connor Keightley was duly elected as chair.

4. The minutes of the meeting on the 5th May were approved.
It was asked when there would be an update on progress with the bus. Tanmay said this would be soon and there would be an update before the end of November.
5. Sabbatical Officer Reports:
Written reports were received from Marina Hristova, Ahmed Rafiq, Ade Abegunde, Tanmay Barhale and Zamzam Ibrahim

Ahmed presented his report.

When questioned he explained that the library renovation was ongoing and that Marina was on the project group with Ade on the steering group. There was nothing confirmed yet so it was too early to involve students in the proposals.

He confirmed that the Adelphi library would be absorbed into the main library once the Adelphi building closed.

When asked what the impact of the student experience committee was Ahmed explained that it was a subset of council and that both he and Marina were on the committee.

Marina presented the Sabbatical Officers team objectives for the year which were: to be the voice of students, for students to have confidence in the union, to be more diverse, and to increase employability.

It was asked if having too many alcohol focused events impacted on who attended, Marina explained that some people may not attend so it was important to have a balance of events, which the union did.

Question: What action can be taken against people who act inappropriately when drinking?
Marina explained that the Union had security for large scale events.

Question: When will the students Union forum mentioned in the team report take place,
Marina clarified that more details will be released in the future.

Marina presented her individual report

Marina said she would circulate the report on question 23 to Student Senate members.

Question: How many students are in partner colleges and how can we engage with them?

Marina confirmed there were approximately 200 students in partner colleges and that they were invited to the students' union on a visit day as well as having student representatives

Question: Why is the students' union not very political with very low awareness of the sabbatical officers?

Ahmed stated that now the union had more resources to promote themselves and raise awareness.

Tanmay presented his report.

Question: How can students engage with new developments on estates?

Tanmay said he would investigate this but some projects would be unsuitable for students.

Question: Can specialist software be made more widely available in other courses.

Tanmay was investigating this but it was difficult to achieve.

Question: Is there a hotline to report any issues with construction workers, Tanmay confirmed the appropriate people to report this matters to were University Security.

Ade presented her report

Zamzam presented her report

Question: How big will she go with her campaigns?

Zamzam stated she would do as much as she could and would ask for ideas from other students

Question: Can the LGBT Society be involved in LGBT history month in February

Zamzam stated that she would be willing to work with them on that.

9. Sabbatical Officer Portfolios

Zamzam outlined the proposed changes to the sabbatical officer portfolios, she confirmed that the specific portfolio of schools would come with the sabbatical officer position so students would know before they ran who they were being elected to represent.

All students would run for all positions and all students would be able to vote for all positions, it was noted that due to the 1994 Education Act they were unable to restrict who can vote for certain sabbatical officers.

It was clarified that there would be an increased focus on engagement of students on the Frederick road campus.

Senate expressed a preference to look at this policy 6 months after implementation to review its effectiveness.

Senate unanimously passed the recommended bye-law

Senate expressed a preference for option B to option A by 14:4

Free periods

It was asked if reusable products were considered, it was stated that this would be investigated.

It was asked how this policy would be implemented once the shops were taken over by Chartwells? It was clarified that the Union would still retain some control.

The policy was passed 17 for 1 against

Healthy Eating policy

Senate had a debate on how far it was right to restrict people's choice. It was asked how the policy could impact on sports teams who might require high sugar food after competing.

The chair held a separate vote on resolves 1-4 and 5-6

Resolves 1-4: For (14) Against (2) Abstain (2)

Resolves 5-6: For (2) Against (12) Abstain (4)

Resolves 1-4 pass, resolves 5-6 do not pass.

Postgraduate funding

It was discussed how these changes would be detrimental to mature postgraduate students

Senate unanimously passed the policy.

6. Student submitted policy

Two Senate members had to leave as the meeting was overrunning

Make subway Halal

Student presented their idea having a halal option for the on campus subway as it would make more money. They outlined the key reasons for this including that it would be more convenient and having a halal option would be more convenient.

It was clarified that the Sabbatical Officers had spoken to Salford the University catering providers when the subway had first opened about this option. It was Subways decision to make not the University or the Students' Union and they had decided that as there was a halal subway near by the Maxwell outlet would not be halal.

The student mentioned that there were a large number of muslim students on campus. It was stated that subway had made the decision based on the demographics of the local area and not just the student population.

Talks about people who would rather not eat from a halal outlet, it was said that everywhere on campus was halal, everything atmosphere sells that's chicken is halal. People refuse to eat because of that. It was stated that Subway may not have ran the franchise if it had to be Halal and the University would have had to cover the cost of this.

The student clarified that they just wanted a halal option alongside the pork options in the Subway by finding ways to store them correctly in Maxwell

It was discussed that people were not in favour of restricting the choice of students but students were in favour of there being halal options available. However due to the way it needs to be stored and served it may not be possible to serve a halal option alongside existing pork products.

It was mentioned that there was already a halal deli in Maxwell just in front of the subway that you can go to. As well as other options available at Chapman, atmosphere and other locations. Considering all those options are available the Uni shouldn't be spending money on subway when they can spend on other things.

Senate voted.

For: 3 Against: 7 Abstain: 6

The proposal did not pass

Office space for School representatives

For: 14 Against: 1

The policy passed

All other policies submitted online would be passed unless a Senate member objected by the 27th November.

Policies adopted by Student Senate without a vote:

Laundry at Peel Park

To use the Bryant suite for student led activities and functions

Office Space for School and student reps and sabbatical officer on the Frederick road campus.

Appendix: Policy + Motions passed

2) Senate Composition

Submitted by: The Sabbatical team 2015/16

Student Senate is the student policy making body of the Students' Union which decides the political direction of our Union. Its membership is drawn from a range of academic, diversity and extra-curricular based representatives.

Last year the academic membership of senate was drawn from the Chair and Vice-Chair of each College forum. At the end of the 14/15 academic year the University changed its academic structures from being based around four colleges to being based around seven schools. This clearly presents obstacles for our current composition of Student Senate as the colleges no longer exist.

The Senate structure also states that there should be two representatives for seven different diverse groups of students.

The governance of the Union states that we should hold "academic forums linked to the University's academic management units" and that these should be "co-ordinated by the Sabbatical Trustees". It is implied that the membership of Senate is drawn from these academic forums.

An independent governance review was commissioned and carried out at the end of the last academic session, and the Trustee Board is currently considering the recommendations of the review. It is likely that the review will result in changes to the Union's governance, including Senate, and all Senate members will be fully involved in discussions about such proposals.

As an interim measure, and to ensure a working Senate during the consultation period, the Sabbatical Officers have decided (under the power given to them to coordinate the academic forums and general executive power delegated to them by the Trustee Board) that the composition of Senate for Semester 1 will be as follows:

- A representative for each of seven schools and Salford Languages
- The Sabbatical Trustees
- Representatives for seven groups of students with specific needs (LGBT, Women, BME, International, Postgraduate research, Students with disabilities, Mature & Part time)
- An activities rep
- A sports rep

The academic roles have been elected via the Student Rep training events during October and November. Students who have expressed an interest in the 'diversity' positions have been invited to the Senate meeting on 17 November.

Big ideas

Another addition to the Senate mechanism this year is the 'Big ideas' module on the Union's website. This is a mechanism through which students can submit suggestions or ideas for change. It is proposed that Student Senate review the suggestions made by students at each meeting and agree what action (if any) is needed. This will enable Senate to be responsive to student feedback, and allow a clear way for students to influence Union policy.

Proposals:

1. Student Senate agree to the revised membership of Senate during the interim period of governance review
2. Student Senate agree to consider the ideas suggested via the 'Big ideas' module of the Union website in line with the flow chart under agendum 10.

9.1 Sabbatical Officer Portfolios: Submitted by Sabbatical Officer Team

- 1) The Union does not currently have on record what the elected Sabbatical Officer roles are.
- 2) The Trustee board under Bye-law 2 of the Union are empowered to make guidance on the Unions Officer roles
- 3) Following an initial review of the Unions governance the Sabbatical Officer team have proposed changes to how future Sabbatical Officers are elected
 - a. There would be 5 individual elections rather than the current 'block' election. Students would have to nominate themselves to be a specific Vice-President.
 - b. Once elected the sabbatical officers would decide amongst themselves on a specific portfolio area of the Unions strategy that they would lead on

Senate resolves to:

- 1) Recommend to the Trustee Board that the following bye law be adopted (subject to changes as a result of resolves 2)
- 2) Indicate a preference to the Trustee Board on what the names of the roles should be. Options A and B are given as an example.

Bye Law x- Elected Roles

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| Sabbatical Officers | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All members of the union are eligible to run for any Sabbatical Officer role 2. There shall be 5 Sabbatical Officers elected in accordance with the elections bye law. 3. The Sabbatical Officer roles will be as follows <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 President 3.2 Arts & Media Officer 3.3 Business & Law Officer 3.4 Science & Technology Officer 3.5 Health & Social Care Officer 4. The Sabbatical Officers will collectively have the following duties <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Represent the voice of students 4.2. Campaign on issues affecting students 4.3. Implement Union Policy 4.4. Lead on the overall strategy of the Union 4.5. Carry out other duties assigned to them from time to time 4.6. Comply with relevant Union rules and behave in a manner that maintains the good reputation of the Union and the office to which they have been elected. |
| President | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The President shall have the following duties <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1. Lead on campus wide issues 5.2. Lead on the Unions strategic direction 5.3. Represent students who are not included in one of the Vice Presidents portfolio. 5.4. Chair the Trustee board 5.5. Lead the Unions delegation to NUS Annual National Conference |
| Vice President | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The Vice Presidents shall have the following duties <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6.1. Represent students in their specific schools 6.2. Work with programme reps to identify and campaign on the issues that affect them 6.3. Work with School reps to identify and campaign on issues that affect them 6.4. Lead on education developments in their school, in conjunction with the other Sabbatical Officers. |
| Additional portfolios | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Following their election the Sabbatical officers will individually take responsibility for a specific portfolio area of the students' union 8. The areas will be assigned following discussion and vote between the officers 9. The Specific areas will be determined from time to time in consultation with the Trustee board but may include <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9.1. Activity & sports groups |

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| | <p>9.2. Welfare</p> <p>9.3. Community & Housing</p> <p>9.4. Careers and employability</p> <p>9.5. Funding & Finance</p> <p>9.6. Representation & Democracy</p> <p>9.7. Commercial Services</p> |
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9.2 **Free Periods:** Submitted by Marina Hristova

The Union believes:

1. Periods are a natural part of a woman's everyday life and should not be described as embarrassing or disgraceful.
2. Following the recent vote in Parliament, the Government has reaffirmed its commitment to classing sanitary products such as tampons as 'luxury non-essential items' and therefore taxes them at 5% VAT.
3. Many other products are seen as essential and are therefore free from VAT. These include food, prescriptions and children's clothes.
4. Students spend a lot of time on campus and therefore they need easy access to sanitary products. If they can't get hold of sanitary products they may need to leave and miss lectures.
5. It is unethical to charge for the upkeep of a natural bodily function, let alone ask people to give a contribution to the government each time.
6. Some students have even been known to take the contraceptive pill continuously and without a break in order to avoid the cost of their period. This is extremely dangerous.
7. Statistically over 2000 students at Salford are on their period right now.
8. The cost of sanitary products is an unfair burden and it disproportionately affects women.

The Union resolves:

1. To absorb the cost of the VAT on sanitary products sold in the Union shops so students do not have to pay it.
2. To sell all sanitary products in the union shops at cost price so we do not profit from the sale.
3. To have a supply of free sanitary products at the Info Point for students to collect if they are on campus and don't have the money to buy some from the shop.

9.3 **Healthy Eating Policy:** Submitted by Dan Howarth

The Union notes:

1. Healthy eating is the leading contributor to reducing obesity and preventing diseases including type 2 diabetes and some cancers
2. A healthy eating policy is a document to ensure food choices are beneficial for consumers

The Union Believes:

1. We should recognise nutrition as a right not a privilege
2. We should promote wellbeing of students with health eating

The Union resolves:

1. To recognise the need for a healthy option policy
 2. To restrict the selling of high sugar food and drink without a sugar free/low sugar option
 3. To lobby for the provision of healthier options including low sugar alternatives in ALL food outlets across campus (meal and snack options)
 4. That Café/restaurants should provide and advertise a low sugar low fat option alongside current meal choices and be price comparative.
- 5.4 **Postgraduate fees:** Submitted by Claire Carey

The Union Believes

1. From September 2016, the government is proposing that students are able to apply for student funding for postgraduate courses and will work similarly to how undergraduate loans/grants work. However, this is for the under 30s only.
2. Yasmin Qureshi MP is already lobbying the government on these proposals and is pushing for an explanation as to why over 30s are excluded and the rationale behind it.
3. The University of Sheffield launched a report in the commons on Monday rightly calling on the government to widen access to higher education.
4. The University of Salford should also take a firm stance against this policy and support their, many, students who will undoubtedly be at a disadvantage if the reforms go ahead.

The Union Resolves

1. To lobby the university to call on the government, as Sheffield University has done, to reassess the age barrier to postgraduate funding.
2. If the university offer any scholarships this year, to take into account the students who will not be eligible for the postgraduate funding and give them priority on the funding
3. Instead of 10k scholarship to one student they could split that for three students' tuition fee.

1) Laundry at Peel Park

Shortly before moving into peel park accommodation we were informed that the laundry services were not yet available and they would be sorted shortly after our arrival. However after this being delayed much further than we were originally told; finding out the costs of using the washing machines and driers, and the amount we are paying for the accommodation, I feel that in recognition, we should have something put in place such as an allowance for the machines or free use for a set period of time to rectify the issues caused by the laundry services not being ready as expected. I have also emailed the president of the students union. Please share this on facebook and give it a thumbs up.

1) To use the Bryant suite for student led activities and functions

The Bryant suite is a really useful space that could be utilised by students more and would love to see students get involved in revamping it.

2) Office space for school and student reps and sabbatical officer on the Frederick Rd Campus

One of my fellow school reps has already had the same idea for office space at the student union. However, I believe we should also have one over at the Frederick Rd campus where we could be available for students who may not be able to get over to the other campus.