

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD STUDENTS' UNION Minutes

Meeting title: Student Senate

Location: Boardroom 1, Students' Union

Date: 23rd February 2016

Time: 2pm

Present: Marina Hristova, Ade Abegunde, Ahmed Rafiq, Zamzam Ibrahim, Mate Nagy, Connor Keightley (Chair), Ben Deacon, Adebayo Adeyinka, Mohammad Khan, Claire Carey, Lorna Haidak, Bethan Sykes, Zuzanna Czychowska

In attendance: Luke Newton (Clerk), Rhiannon Roberts (part)

Apologies: Charlie Stonier, Tanmay Barhale, Tom Roberts, Nikita Cranston, Irfan Rowell.

Absent: Vacant positions: Languages and PGR rep, Dan Howarth, Shama Shafiq,

1. Minutes of last meeting approved
 2. An oral update on the governance review was presented by Rhiannon Roberts, senate would continue for a third meeting this year and a paper on arrangements for the operation on Senate in 16/17 would be presented in due course.
 3.
 - a. Parking policy- Fell (11 in favour, 2 against)
 - b. Support plans- Passed unanimously
 - c. Students not suspects: Boycott Prevent- Passed (10 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions)
 4. Nus update- Policy proposed to NUS conferences passed unanimously
 5. Student policy proposals
 - a. Kitchen area with microwave and kettle at Allerton building- Passed unanimously
 - b. ZZZ Zone: Fell 1 in favour, 11 against, 1 abstention
 - c. Joint exhibitions for creative courses: Passed 12 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention
 - d. Microwave and kettle in Library café area: Fell Unanimously
 - e. Increased parking facilities: Fell 12 against, 1 abstention
 - f. A Salford University credit Union: Fell five in favour, 6 against, 2 abstentions
 - g. Lion as mascot for the students' union: Fell, 7 against, 6 abstentions
- Rolled over policy from previous senate meeting not discussed and now lapses.
- 1) Puppy Therapy
 - 2) Hand Sanitizers around campus
 - 3) Fresher reps
 - 4) One system log in

- 5) Make tier 4 visa attendance for can be submitted in the school officer
- 6) Quiet and chill area in Newton
- 7) SU posts in every building
- 8) Extending the Library Champion scheme to journals and articles
- 9) School rep newsletter

6.

Sabbatical Officer Reports:

Written reports were received from Marina Hristova, Ahmed Rafiq, Ade Abegunde, Tanmay Barhale and Zamzam Ibrahim

There were questions on the provision of an alcohol licence for the new students' union shop. It was clarified that a wide variety of non-drinking focused events took place across the year in a variety of locations around the University.

The sale of alcohol in the shop would provide an alternative for those students currently living on campus. It was not expected to impact on the running of Atmosphere as buying drinks from an off licence is a very different experience to drinking in a bar and students already purchase alcohol from other off licences further away.

Next meeting 6th May

Policy passed Appendix

Student Support Plans

For those who have support staff ie/ note takers the current 'rule' is to give the support staff 24 hours' notice if you no longer need them for a lecture, however, this rule does not take into account those students with children/caring responsibilities who may not be able to give 24 hours' notice of them being unwell for example.

This rule, if broken twice on one semester, can mean that student loses their support plan

I would like to see this amended and more considerate of individual circumstances

Students not suspects: Boycott Prevent

The Union Notes:

- The government's Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory requirement on public bodies – including universities – to 'prevent people being drawn into terrorism' and to implement the 'Prevent' agenda.¹
- The Prevent agenda, as part of the Government's 'anti-extremism' work has been used to create an expansive surveillance architecture to spy on the public and to police dissent, systematically targeting Black people and Muslims.
- Under Prevent, lecturers have been known to report students as being 'at risk of radicalisation' for merely taking an interest in political affairs in class, or for observing their religion more closely, whilst politically active students have found themselves visited by counter-terrorism officers.
- That the Prevent strategy guidance (from as early as 2011) stated that university staff, lecturers and chaplains to report to the police any Muslim students who are isolated or depressed.²
- The Government's counter-terrorism/security policy is fundamentally flawed in its approach; its operant concepts of 'extremism' and 'radicalism' are ill-defined and open to abuse for political ends.
- The National Union of Students have condemned the Counter terrorism and Security Act and described the Prevent strategy and Channel policies as "further developing a culture of suspicion and surveillance on campuses, whilst also potentially conflicting with institutions' duties to promote freedom of

¹ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/pdfs/ukpga_20150006_en.pdf

² <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2011/aug/29/university-inform-vulnerable-muslim-students>

speech, by making them overly risk averse and unwilling to engage in important topics of discussion.”³

- That the Prevent Strategy has been widely criticised for demonising Muslim students on campus by various Human Rights groups such as Liberty.⁴

The Union Believes:

- That students are not suspects.
- That students should be offered help and not victimised for suffering from mental health issues.
- That any expectation by the state for academic staff to be involved in monitoring their students is deeply worrying, and could have a chilling effect on relations between staff and students.
- That the Counter Terrorism & Security Act could serve to isolate many students who already feel that the only avenue through which the Government will engage them is ‘anti-radicalisation’ initiatives, resulting in further alienation and disaffection.
- The Act further criminalises Muslims and Black people (already marginalised groups).
- The Counter Terrorism and Security Act discourage the freedom of speech.
- Academics, as well as anyone in a public sector job, should not have to be part of this surveillance.
- The implementation of the Prevent strategy on campus will not only isolate Muslim students but undermine the civil liberties of other groups such as environmental, political and humanitarian activists.
- The monitoring and exclusion of ideas from public debate opposes the basic function of universities; introducing students to a variety of opinions and encouraging them to analyse and debate them.
- The policy significantly undermines the freedom and activities of university staff and students.

³ <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/articles/statement-on-counter-terrorism-and-security-bill#.VLhyssQbvQ.gmail>

⁴ <https://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/sites/default/files/Liberty's%20Second%20Reading%20Briefing%20on%20the%20Counter-Terrorism%20%26%20Security%20Bill%20in%20the%20House%20of%20Commons.pdf>

- Our public services (i.e. hospitals, schools, universities, prison services) should exist to serve the general public and not be used against the very people it exists to serve.

The Union Resolves:

- That USSU should issue a public statement condemning the Prevent strategy.
- For USSU to work with trade unions on combatting the Prevent strategy and lobby them to condemn the Counter terrorism and Security Act.
- To mandate all the Sabbatical Officers to lobby the university to be more open and transparent about how they are engaging with PREVENT, CHANNEL and other similar initiatives.
 - Demand publications of how the policy is operating within the University and Student's Union. This includes access to materials used to train staff and students.
 - Hold consultations with the student body regarding how this affects students.
- That USSU and the Officers will not engage with the Prevent strategy, in the exception of being requested by students to support them through the processes of PREVENT / CHANNEL, etc.
- That USSU will educate students on the dangers of the Prevent Strategy.
- That the USSU NUS delegation should support the motion condemning the Counter terrorism and security bill at the NUS National conference 2016.

Policy to NUS National Conference: Marina Hristova

Conference believes:

1. Student welfare and pastoral care in student accommodations is an essential part of the student experience.
2. Students' safety should be a forefront on Universities' agenda.
3. Students with lower and middle budgets could be excluded from residential experience when in University.
4. Education is a right not a privilege and money should not be its barrier.
5. Students should be treated as students not as customers in residences.

Conference further believes:

6. Security in student accommodations need to be at high standards to guarantee students' safety and wellbeing.
7. Contracts between universities and external providers need to be monitored to ensure students' expectations are met.

8. Focusing on widening-participation means that more measures need to be put into place to ensure students get their value for money.
9. Affordable accommodation should be made available to students especially those from lower income backgrounds.
10. Housing suppliers are committed to transparent undertakings for managing residences occupied by students as per the National codes.

Conference resolves:

1. NUS to lobby for systems for regulating student accommodation providers to:
 - Provide different types of accommodation (e.g. family, short-term, etc.)
 - Ensure security/incident log is shared with the concerned Students' Union
2. NUS to support SUs to challenge effectively universities on student welfare matters.
3. NUS to lobby for staff members in student residences to be provided with mental health and first aid training to support students' welfare.

NUS to urge Universities to partner only with accommodations that have signed up to the voluntary code to ensure a minimum standard of expectation is followed.

Student passed policy

- 1) Kitchen area with microwave and kettle at Allerton building
Many of us are on a tight budget and whilst the food available at the outlets is lovely it is an occasional treat. Also, some people are on special diets or would prefer to bring in food from home. It would be really good if we could access to an area with a microwave and kettle within the Allerton building
- 2) Joint exhibitions for the creative courses
Provide spaces and possibility for joint exhibitions between the existing creative courses of the University to enhance the collaboration between courses and to promote the University in a broader extent.