

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD STUDENTS' UNION

Agenda

Meeting title: Student Senate

Location: Peel Building, 107

Date 4th May 2016

Time: 2pm

Items marked with an asterisk (*) will be assumed to be read and not discussed unless a Senate member makes a request to the chair prior to the meeting.

1. Approval of minutes of meeting on 23.02.16*

Policy (1 hour)

2. Democratic review proposal
3. Policy decisions
 - a. Elections eligibility
 - b. Parking Policy
 - c. Guarantor Scheme
4. Items tabled by students
 - a. New ideas
 - a) More Bursaries
 - b) The Union should campaign to remain in the EU
 - c) Sensitivity training for University staff
 - d) Bigger and cheaper food shop in Media City Campus
 - e) Improve Newton Annex Prayer Facility
 - f) Fair Allocation of practice weeks during school holidays
 - g) HIV/AIDS PAHTI FOUNDATION prevention of Aids Hiv transmission In Institutions Of Higher Learning
 - h) Anonymous counselling
 - i) Latin Lessons
 - j) Taxi Stop near the library
 - k) Keep reserved books safe

Accountability (1 hour)

1. Sabbatical Officer reports (to include University committees update)*
Written reports received from Marina Hristova, Zamzam Ibrahim and Ahmed Rafiq
2. Questions to Sabbatical Officers
3. NUS Update*
 - a. Reports from NUS National conference
4. Trustee Board report*

1. 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 Czyzowska

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

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 (1 hour)

2) Democratic Review proposals

Senate Notes:

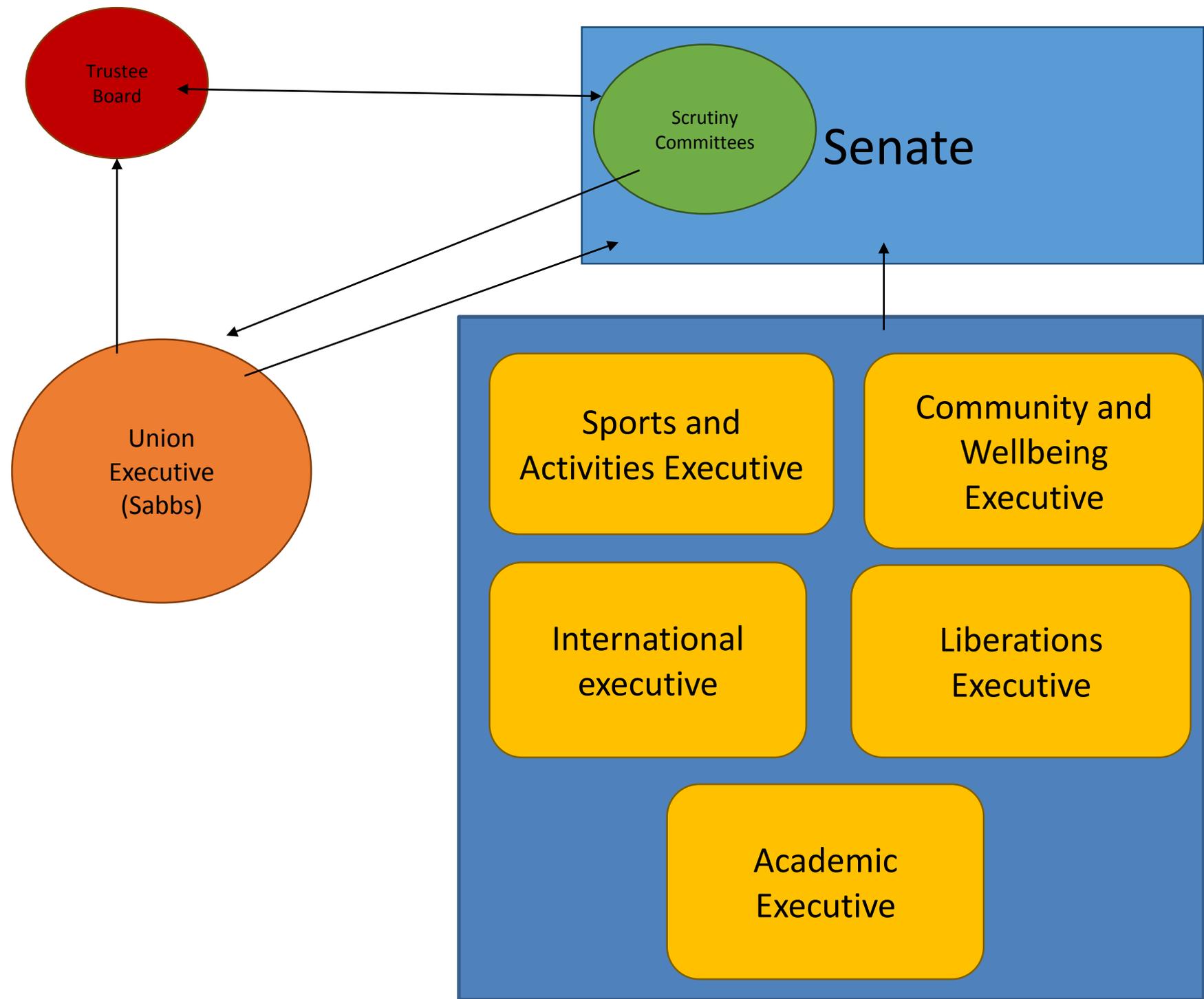
- 1) Student Council has the authority to set the policy of the Union and refer policy to referenda
- 2) The operating name for Student Council is currently Student Senate (Senate)
- 3) Senate has no control over any of the Unions finances
- 4) The Trustee Board has the authority to delegate power to other committees

Senate Believes:

- 1) Senate is the supreme democratic body of the union, subject to any referenda decisions.
- 2) A strong democratic body is vital in ensuring the Sabbatical Officer are held accountable and the Union acts in the interests of students
- 3) Senate currently has few powers and the powers it does have are seldom used.
- 4) The Trustee Board have delegated little of their power to other committees
- 5) The Trustee Board should regularly report to the student body via Senate
- 6) The Trustee Board should remain an impartial non-political body.
- 7) Activity groups, sports groups and other groups of the Union (e.g. Denizen Halls reps) are underrepresented in Union decision making processes and many decision making processes are currently unwritten and not controlled by students
- 8) A restructure of how Senate and democratic processes function is required to ensure the Union is representing all students. This restructure should be carried out using the following principles:
 - a) Decisions that affect students should, as far as possible, be taken by students that are affected by them
 - b) Elected Officials and representatives must be held to account in accessible and transparent ways
 - c) Greater powers should be given to students to influence the functioning of their Union, this must include budgetary control.
 - d) Democratic committees and representatives should, as far as possible, represent the full range of students at Salford.

Senate Resolves:

- 1) To reaffirm that Senate is the supreme democratic decision making and policy creating body of the Union.
- 2) To request that the trustees of the union, as far as is in their power to do so, formally devolve authority for the creation, oversight and budget of student groups and representatives to Senate. This would include Sports groups, activity groups, student representatives, halls representatives and other student representatives and groups. This would not affect the trustee's oversight responsibilities for the Unions finances.
- 3) To regularly report back to the Trustee Board on the distribution of funds and running of activity groups and representatives referred to in resolves 2.
- 4) To create new executive committees which will be responsible for the oversight, student leadership, budget and policy for a specific area. These will report regularly to Senate and the committee's membership should be made up of representatives from those areas.
- 5) To create new accessible ways to scrutinise Sabbatical Officers
- 6) To request the trustees amend as necessary the Bye-laws of the Union and make any further changes to implement these changes.
- 7) To feedback on the draft structure proposed below:



3. Policy Proposals

a. Elections eligibility: Claire Carey

This policy suggestion comes from the feedback received during and after the student elections from a number of students. It is thought that the process has become a popularity contest and is not ensuring that the right people are representation students within each school. There were also allegations made over being coerced to vote for particular candidates.

Disclaimer* these are not just my personal thoughts, I have, however, listened to students and agreed to submit this proposal.

The Union Believes

1. The current election process for sabbatical officers allows any student to be nominated for any school regardless of their suitability to the role.
2. In the interest of fairness, students can vote for sabbatical officers in other schools, not just the one they attend, yet, this may not be fair representation of the students within a particular school.

The Union Resolves

1. Any student who wishes to stand for elections must be from the school they wish to represent OR be able to demonstrate, at the nomination stage, their suitability and provide evidence of their capability to represent those students.

b. Parking policy: Claire Carey

This policy is being submitted on behalf of the many, many, students who have complained about the lack of parking during my three years as a student at the University of Salford. It is a suggestion, for an initial trial period, that may offer a resolution for some. I acknowledge that this policy would stop some students parking, however, by only allowing parking permits for those who can demonstrate their 'need' will hopefully encourage everyone to consider alternative ways of travel.

The Union Believes

1. Car parking on campus is an on-going contentious issue.
2. There are currently 1202 spaces available for students, monthly and casual parking, across all campuses and 10 disabled bays on the same car parks which is not enough for the number of students.
3. Other Universities, most notable Edge Hill and UCLAN, have adopted an eligibility scheme to apply for a parking permit.

4. The University of Salford should consider that some students NEED a space and do not have other alternatives available to them for various reasons and should not be disadvantaged or have to miss lectures due to lack of car parking spaces.

The Union Resolves

Subject to a trial period.

1. All students who wish to park have to display a parking permit.
2. To introduce an eligibility criterion, that requires proof, to obtain a parking permit. (This list does not have to be exhaustive).
 - Blue Badge holder
 - Have child care commitments for primary aged children or a disabled child
 - Have other caring commitments
 - Short term mobility need or medical condition as certified by a Doctor
 - Course requirements, e.g./ placements for health courses
3. Monitor the issuing and use of the parking permits to ensure they are not being abused and that students are using the most appropriate, and the closest, car park to access their lectures.
4. To encourage students to think about whether they need to use their car and to consider using public transport or car sharing.
5. Consider allowing students to park on the Frederick Rd Campus which is currently used as a staff only car park and is not always to full capacity.

c. Guarantor Scheme: Tanmay Barhale

Union Notes:

2. Most landlords, and some private accommodation providers, that rent properties to students require a third person to act as a 'guarantor' before they sign a tenancy agreement. A guarantor is a third party, for example a family member, who agrees to pay the rent if for any reason the tenant cannot.
3. In some cases a guarantor is also liable for other costs that might be incurred, for example any damage to the property that happened whilst the tenant was living there.
4. Agreeing to be a guarantor is binding legal commitment, and landlords can take legal action against guarantor if the rent, or other costs, are not paid.
5. Trying to find someone to act as a guarantor presents problems for students for a range of reasons. Students who are care leavers, or estranged from their parents may not have relationships with their families which would enable them to ask them to act as a guarantor for a rented property.
6. In order for an individual to act as a guarantor, they must have an income which is suitably high enough to afford to cover the rent payment. For students from low-income backgrounds or who have parents that are out of work, or in low paid work, it can be a challenge to find a guarantor that the landlord will accept.
7. Most landlords require that a guarantor is based in the UK to make it easier for the landlord to pursue any unpaid rent using the UK legal system. For international students this poses a substantial challenge, as they may not be able to provide a guarantor that is resident in the UK for the full tenancy.

8. From NUS research, Homes Fit for Study we found that 66 per cent of international students were asked to provide a UK based guarantor when they were looking to rent privately, but 37 per cent were unable to do so. Over 90 per cent of these students were asked for rent up front to compensate for this, and between one and six months' worth of rent was generally requested – although six months' rent was the most common requirement.
9. In many cases this equates to between £2,000- £9,000 being paid to the landlord at the start of the tenancy, which unfortunately is not a viable option for some students. Upfront payments of rent make student renters vulnerable to unscrupulous landlords, as once the rent is paid the tenant will struggle to have their money reimbursed if they have to vacate the property for any reason, or the tenancy is ended.

http://nusdigital.s3-eu-west1.amazonaws.com/document/documents/23316/94ad9ef9a3b8216ff034e8df63d9956b/Housing_How_To_-_University_Guarantors_Scheme.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJKEA56ZWKFU6MHNQ&Expires=1461691873&Signature=exFxF2Ny5Jjh2bK81snbJfd31HA%3D

The Union Believes:

1. Requirement of providing a UK based guarantor places additional burden on international students. Most of the international students don't have a guarantor based in UK and are required to approach commercial guarantor schemes or live in unfriendly accommodations.
2. There are a number of private companies that offer to act as a guarantor for a fixed fee. Private guarantor companies require students to pay the fee up-front, and in many cases the charge is up to 95% of one month's rent, on average around £290. Additionally many of these schemes require a UK-based 'co-signer' before they will approve an application, and in the terms and conditions of these schemes it is apparent that that the 'co-signer' is liable to repay any debt owed to the company as a result of non-payment of rent. These schemes are expensive, and usually unsuitable for international students who cannot find a UK 'co-signer' to endorse their application.
3. In response to the challenges faced by students who are unable to secure a guarantor some universities have introduced their own rent guarantor policies- where they institution will act as a guarantor for their students looking to rent a property in both University accommodations and the private sector.
4. In any case where the student renter defaults on their rent payment to the landlord, the university will make the payment and chase the debt owed to them by the student separately. It important to bear in mind that each institution is different, and any policy that is introduced will have to fit in with the culture and values of each organisation. There are successful implementations of these guarantor schemes from 1. University College London 2. SOAS 3. University of Edinburgh 4. University of York 5. London School of Economics 6. Queen Mary University of London

The Union Resolves:

1. To convince our university to run a guarantor scheme in a pilot project, to test out how the scheme could work with a small number of students. Pilot schemes are useful for collect lessons about how to run a project on a wider scale and can help to demonstrate the benefits of the scheme in a low-risk environment.
2. A Sabbatical officer or officer team leading on the project could discuss with University to define which students are eligible for the scheme. For example some institutions have reserved the scheme for international students only, some only with dependent children, and some schemes are not open to students in their foundation year of studying at the university.
3. Most universities that operate guarantor schemes charge a small administration fee of £30-£50 per student. This fee can be negotiated by the officer team and University keeping as minimum as possible.
4. Officer / team will discuss with University to define which properties are eligible for the scheme. In order to minimise exposure to fraud, as well as rogue landlords, it is advisable to create (and make available to students) a register of properties that would qualify for the guarantor scheme.
5. Officer / team will discuss with University to define the rent level the scheme will cover. It would be sensible to cap the amount of rent, the scheme could cover to ensure that it is only being used for legitimate housing requests, however this should be reviewed according to any changes in accommodation prices to ensure that the level of cover provided to student renters is reasonable.
6. A robust verification procedure should be in place. It is advisable to make a copy of the tenancy agreement and verify the terms and conditions for any student accessing the scheme. Some institutions also ask for financial details from students, such as a proof of income or bank statement, to check that the student is able to afford the rent payments, and that the student has set up an automatic payment (such as a Direct Debit or standing order) to the landlord to avoid late payment. At the University of York, applicants have to have their tenancy approved from University before they can sign up, and are also required to provide bank statements and proof of income before they are allowed to join the scheme
7. To establish a clear policy and procedure to chase the debt owed for non-payment of rent. This could include verifying the students' home address and household details. Queen Mary University London includes a declaration in the application form to join the scheme that lays out the steps that will be taken to recover any debt owed to the university which students are required to sign.

4. Student submitted proposals

Motion	Likes	Dislikes
More bursaries	27	0
The Union should campaign to remain in the EU	18	4
sensitivity training for university staff	8	0
Bigger and cheaper Food shop in Media City campus	7	0
Improve Newton Annex Prayer Facility	6	1
HIVAIDS PAHTI FOUNDATION prevention of Aids Hiv transmission In Institutions Of Higher Learning	5	1
Fair allocation of practice weeks during school holidays	4	0
Anonymous Counselling	4	0
Latin Lessons	3	0
Taxi Stop near the library	1	0
Keep reserved books safe	1	0

a. More bursaries

As you are all aware of, we students struggle with money so therefore I think there should be more bursaries to help us out.

b. The Union should campaign to remain in the EU

UK Prime Minister David Cameron has announced a referendum on whether Britain should remain in the European Union to be held on Thursday 23 June. Since exiting Europe will affect thousands of our students, our Students Union like NUS and other Unions should campaign for the UK to stay in Europe?

c. Sensitivity training for University staff

Entering my last year of bachelors degree it shocked me, just how much university workers think it's okay to pressure students into getting the best marks. The method used for insentivising students is fear mongering as well, which I think is the wrong way to do it. These are just a few sentences that my course has been told in our last half a year at University:

"If you get anything besides a first you have officially wasted your time here", "at least if you don't go to university, you can tell your employer that you have potential, the moment you get a 2:1 or a 2:2 all you can show is that you're average or bellow average at best" and "fear is the best driven force of humanity".

I do believe that there's a better way to incentivise progress and give negative feedback. I do not feel like students should be put in a mindset that not getting a first would ruin their lives.

Proposed solutions:

There are more expensive and more intrusive ways of solving this, but I do believe that releasing simple guidelines on "how to give negative feedback" and "how to incentivise progress without resorting to fearmongering" could go a long way. I do not believe that any lecturers that say such things mean harm. I do believe that they mean good. However it would prove beneficial if there was at least some sort of understanding of how much damage such sentences can do.

Example of more proper sentence would be something like "a first would open more doors for you, meaning it would be best if you aimed for a first".

d. Bigger and cheaper Food shop in Media City campus

We need a bigger and cheaper food shop in the media city campus because:
There is hardly any hot foods available
The prices are outrageous
We deserve better!

e. Improve Newton Annex Prayer Facility

There is not enough space to safely facilitate the required prayer/congregation for Muslims on Friday, nor is the entrance/exit adequate enough to allow people to enter and exit safely during peak times. This is a health and safety issue, as during a fire a stampede and people becoming trapped inside is highly probable.

During the new building works around the Newton Annex, people are also at risk of becoming struck by construction vehicles. Recently there was an incident where someone came very close to getting ran over by a lorry. Many things have gone wrong for this incident to occur but the inadequate prayer facility is definitely a contributing factor. Fortunately the person was not struck as bystanders grabbed them away from danger.

I expect the university to be liable for this issue.

f. HIV/AIDS PAHTI FOUNDATION prevention of Aids Hiv transmission In Institutions Of Higher Learning

This is an idea about pandemic issue plaguing all prospective business leaders, innovators, managers etc who are the students of today and Leaders of tomorrow.

Let us Listen, Live and learn.

Let us kick it out of our campuses and affect the present and next generations. Can we launch Pahti Foundation ? Yes We Can...

g. Fair allocation of practice weeks during school holidays

The allocation of practice weeks during school holidays are unfairly given to the March intake. September intake have annual leave in a fair few of the school holidays. I find

that in the next 2 years I will be unable to take my children in holiday. My daughter is currently doing her gcse's meaning I can not take her out of school during term time.

I think the university should look at sharing practice weeks in school holiday equally between the September and March intakes. If you agree please like this idea and see if we can make a difference to the life's of March intake students :)

h. Anonymous Counselling

I'm thinking of some kind of online chat service to a counsellor that knows nothing about you or something so you could discuss issues with when you've got no one to talk to or nobody that you feel would understand? Maybe several 'online counsellors', some faith-specific, so those with faith related issues can also talk to someone without being judged e.t.c.

i. Latin Lessons

Latin lessons/information to help biology students understand the origin of words and decode the latin names for species etc. It is still widely used in most journals, so it would be beneficial to have a wider understanding of it.

j. Taxi Stop near the library

All of you, that like me keep unsociable hours at the library during assessment periods will know it's impossible to find a safe and well lit place to wait for someone to pick you up or a taxi.

I propose there should be a sign posted and well lit taxi drop off/pick up point to make going to the library at night safer and more convenient.

k. Keep reserved books safe

I recently reserved a book online and arrived to collect it from the reserved book shelf at Clifford Whitworth library to find it was not there. This was slightly annoying as I had come to uni especially to collect the book. The library staff were really helpful, however it does seem there's a bit of a problem with reserved books going walkabout. My big idea is simply to suggest that the books could be kept securely so that students can rely on their reserved book being there when they need it.

ACCOUNTABILITY (1 Hour)

Marina Hristova – President

Salford Curriculum+

This is the new Education and Student Experience Strategy and its focus is on portfolio of programmes, teaching and learning and the university's aim to offer 'more than a degree' to their students. This will be done via developing a big variety of courses designed in partnership with industry. It will link to the University's single Strategic Priority – the Industry Collaboration zones that will enable students to develop their creative thinking, problem solving and better links with employers.

Inclusive Student Experience Project Board

As Disabled students' allowances will be cut following the Government's announcement, the University have come up with an initiative for a pilot project that will embed inclusive teaching, fulfil equality duty to meet the needs of disabled students and reduce the need for individual student support plans, This is a project that will aim to provide inclusive teaching for all students. It will provide a framework for all lecturers and support staff including professional services and the Library which is to be implemented to allow greater access to education and student support. This framework is currently being developed.

Timetabling

Timetabling workshops in a joint approach with the timetabling department took place in the beginning of March looking at students' feedback on timetables, the timetabling service and any timetabling concerns. Issues around these areas were addressed and noted by the Timetabling Department to ensure future Timetabling service and experience is improved. Exam timetables have been published a week earlier as promised and the Timetabling team are now working towards ensuring that exam timetables are distributed even earlier next academic year.

Ahmed Rafiq

University Committees:

As Previous Report:

University Senate (US)

Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Committee (ASQAC)

Academic Regulations Sub-Committee (ARSC)

School Executive (SE)

School Quality and Student Experience Committee (SQSEC)

University Council (UC)

Student Experience Committee (SEC)

Honorary Committee (HC)

Working Groups:

As Previous Report:

Attendance Monitoring Group

- Status: Closed until University Timetabling can be re-designed (currently causes a number of key issues, prevent the work from continuing).

Academic Regulations Group

- Status: Recommendations have been made to the appropriate bodies. Waiting to be confirmed by the University Senate.

Policy Review

- Status: Waiting for the Academic Regulation Group to complete works for new and existing policies to be re-drafted.

Grade Inflation & Degree Classification Algorithms

- Status: The University will change the definition of its classifications, shifting the marks needed to compensate. Recommendation has been made by ASQAC to Senate (will meet later this year).

Policies:

UCU Support

- Complete

Sexual Orientation Monitoring

- Status: Suspended, until infrastructure of Banner is updated

Gender Neutral Toilets

- Status: Currently Under implementation, toilets identified and signs are being produced

Handbook Review

- Status: To be complete after new Academic Regulations are completed. Currently some work has been completed since the introduction of CMA within universities.

Unification of IT

- Developing: Current work is being completed with the library, estates and ITS alongside school to make sure IT software is being made available in appropriate locations and in the central library through the development plan.

Students not suspects

- Status: Undergoing. Letters, statement and supporting statements have been signed. University and schools have been made aware of the Unions stance and working with NUS to further develop the campaign.

Individual Work

Placement Audit

- Safe Guard student on placements and develop framework for checking suitability of placements – still on going.

Comprehensive spending review

- In relation to the cuts to bursaries for students within the allied health professions.

Ade Abegunde

Executive summary: This briefly highlights some of what I have been working on since our last meeting

- Working with the University on the library development on whose project board I seat on
- Aligned with the governance department in the Union
- Improving both academic and student experience of Arts and Media Students through representation
- BlackBoard Module addressing academic good practices for all students

Goal	Objective	How will it be Achieved & Support needed	Action by when
Goal 1 Giving students a platform	Run a minimum of 2 campaigns per semester e.g. Black History Month	Need to work with Jess, currently working in consent, Black History Month, Islamaphobia Awareness, International womens day, Do you know your Human Rights? International day of Zero Tolerance for FGM - Feb 6th International Womens – March 8th Prevent Agenda Campaign	COMPLETE

<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Employability (more than just a degree)</p>	<p>Work with university as well as the union to make sure employability and experience is prioritize across every degree</p>	<p>Union - Develop a plan to ensure we give our students as much real life experiences as possible e.g. Photography for events</p> <p>Univeristy - Lobby University to fully utilise the large number of Business partnerships they have and ensure students have an opportunity to get a placement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum they meet an employer in their field of study (Final Year) 	<p>Worked closely with school in how we can include experience into modules</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Goal 3</p> <p>Democracy</p>	<p>Clear understanding of how decisions are made, and improvement in SU transparency from staff & sabbs</p>	<p>Better and clearer messaging for students.</p> <p>Through blogs or short videos.</p> <p>Facebook updates & tweets.</p> <p>Student Articles</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	The website needs to be more clear in policy and Sabb reports	<p>Under Policy on the website put all policy passed in the past 5-10yrs of student senate</p> <p>Sabbs report on where they are with the policy to be published</p> <p>Possibly working with representation and marketing teams</p>	Ongoing
	Accountability - Hold pop ups around campus	<p>Table with a simple sign saying 'ASK YOUR SABB'</p> <p>-Simple but could prove to be very effective</p> <p>- Could also work well with School Reps</p>	Ongoing – Atleast once a month
	Changing the election process - More clarification on what the students are running for	Work with the Sabb team and possibly Representation to make sure that we have a better clarity before the 16/17 elections	Complete

<u>Commercial</u>			
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<p>Atmosphere</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To oversee and make sure the commercial operations are ran as efficiently and effectively as possible. - Make sure that the needs of the students are put first. - A fair balance between Alcohol and Non-alcohol events. <p>The contact to work with Misbah Haque when the new shop is open.</p>	<p>Work closely with Michele who is now responsible for the commercail operations as well as with Atmosphere Bar staff.</p> <p>Working with events to make sure that our events cater to students from all backgrounds.</p> <p>To make sure that the new shop caters to students needs. Works in partnership with te unuon as agreed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Student Shop</p>			<p>Complete</p>

Tanmay Barhale

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD STUDENT SENATE

REPORT AUTHOR(S)/ SPONSOR(S)

Tanmay Barhale

PURPOSE OF REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For information*

This summary outlines the things I have been working on or will be working on this year.

Achievements / Activities

1. Currently working on European Referendum debate scheduled on 29th of this month.
2. Currently working with engagement department and events team to design events related to European sports and festivals.
3. I sit on residence committee which looks after issues faced by students living in halls of residences. Ensured students and visitors get more parking space in the newly built accommodation. Bike storage facility can now be accessed 24*7 without requiring help from security. Ensured issues raised by students in residences were addressed and resolved as quickly as possible.
4. Working on ensuring that student voice is heard by the University by raising the security concerns that they have with University management.
5. Arranged ESE forums to discuss Salford Curriculum + with student volunteers and University higher management.
6. Attended NUS International students' conference and voted in favor of reelecting current International student's officer Mostafa Rajaai and passed various motions which would benefit International Students. (EU and Non-EU students)
7. Currently working on a guarantor scheme for international students to support them with accommodation issues.

NUS Delegate Reports

1. Mustapha Jelili

REPORT OF THE NUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016

The 2016 NUS conference took place in Brighton, England from the 19th to 21st April with six delegates from University of Salford Students' Union who represented the Salford University Students community.

The delegation left for Brighton on the 18th April in company of delegations from University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University. The head of delegation for Salford University was the President of USSU (Marina Hristova) while other delegates include:

Mustapha Jelili

Ochoga Cynthia

Roberto Dmitirov

Zamzam Ibrahim

Adeyinka Adebayo who replaced Laura Wright who was absent due to family issue.

Some of us who are first time delegates were taken through the need-to-know of the conference especially the voting processes. The conference officially started with speeches from the NUS full time officers about their stewardship for the past nine months. Several motions were passed while few failed.

Motion on the establishment of NUS Trans officer got the highest endorsement while motion on 'One student one vote' which failed caused a lot of "higgy-hagga" which also escalated beyond the conference with some schools tending to file petition to disaffiliate from the NUS. Also, one of the main highlight of the conference was the election and specifically the election of Malia Bouattia as the incoming NUS National President. We the delegates from University of Salford unanimously voted for Malia Bouattia due to her unprecedented achievement in fighting against the Tories bad policies and championing the campaign against the PREVENT agenda. Also, many controversies and false accusations followed her election which she has dispelled and cleared the air. Also, a delegate from Salford University in person of Zamzam Ibrahim contested for the Block of 15, while two delegates in persons of Cynthia Ochoga and Adeyinka Adebayo contested for the Democratic Procedure Committee membership. As at the time of writing this report, the result of the elections are yet to be released but we are hopeful that candidates from UniSalford will win because of the support we got from other schools and delegates.

I will implore the present and incoming University of Salford sabbatical officers and student union as a whole to:

1. Support the incoming NUS leadership which will in turn benefit our student union.
2. The present and incoming sabbatical officers should make student engagement top priority in their agenda

3. USSU should engage other schools in activities that will promote our image and also foster cordial relationship among schools. This will help the union achieve both short term and long term goals.
4. Students should be encourage to bring up motions especially matters that the USSU might not be able to handle for deliberation at the NUS conference.
5. Training prior to the NUS conference should be stepped up and simplified. This might be in form of a model NUS conference.
6. First time delegates should be encourage to attend subsequent conferences because of the knowledge they have gathered during the previous conference.
7. Any form of petition of disaffiliation from the NUS should knocked out because of its deleterious effect on our union.

Lastly, I want to thank the students and staffs especially USSU staffs for the support they gave us before, during and after the election and conference. I believe with more student engagement and involvement, our union will be able to stand at shoulder level with other top unions in the country.

Signed

Mustapha Jelili

(2016 NUS Delegate)

2. Zamzam Ibrahim

So what happened in National Conference 2016.

This year you elected 5 delegates plus the President to attend National Conference that happened in Brighton. In the long three-day conference, we debated and voted on policies that we believed NUS should be doing to represent the views of students at University of Salford Students' Union as well as on a national scale. We had some interesting policies debated, and brilliant policies were passed at the conference that I believe will benefit students across the HE and FE sector.

The National Student Survey (NSS) is used as a measure for HE institution (Final year students) and for this reasons every HE institution places so much emphasis on. Well at national conference a motion to sabotage the NSS was passed. This motion was presented to reject the concept of marketising the education system. So I expect next year when I am filling in the NSS, NUS will be campaigning for me to boycott it (I definitely will).

A motion was also passed for a Full time NUS Trans officer which had most the voted to conference up in joy. This position didn't pass last year but this year almost went through unanimously. This massive achievement maybe down to Brighton, a city with a large LBGT+ community playing a part in its success.

Delegates overwhelmingly voted against a motion to implement a policy of 'One member, One vote' in full time officer elections. The motion, proposed by York, argued that the current system of representative democracy within the NUS and for a system of direct election of the NUS President and vice presidential positions. However, delegates from smaller institutions argued that the NUS would become the "national union of Russell Groups" if the motion was to passed. Some student unions have threatened to leave the NUS in response to the motion falling.

My only concern from the conference is NUS getting deeply involved in party politics and not actually focusing on matters that affect its members. The political factions within the movement are distracting us from the real issues that our students are more concerned with. When we volunteered to represent our students in elections we promised to represent them and not a political party. I hope the newly elected President and the team will focus more on representing students and not drag us down the line of party politics.

Malia Bouattia was elected as the new president of The National Union of Students, making her the first black, female NUS president, and the first Muslim to ever hold the position. NUS has not seen an incumbent president lose their election since 1969, and this year we feared would be no exception.

Malia Bouattia was elected NUS National President at stage one of the counts, with the final vote count being:

372 – Malia Bouattia

328 – Megan Dunn

9 – Adil Waraich

22 – RON (Re-open nominations)

The newly elected NUS full-time officers for the next Academic year are:

Malia Bouattia - President

Sorana Vieru - Vice President Higher Education

Richards Brooks - Vice President Union Development

Robbie Young - Vice President Society and Citizenship

Shelly Asquith - Vice President Welfare

Shakira Martin - Vice President Further Education

What will the NUS president focus on 2016/17?

Democratic and accountable Leadership

- Adhere to and ensure the implementation of policy passed at national conference by students
- Ensure that democracy and transparency are exercised in a way that allows students to decide what we work on, holds us to account and changes NUS for the better
- Respect autonomous groups' decisions and consult officers who represent and lead on your campaigns when making decisions
- Encourage the development of a united leadership for our union through collective decision making between FTOs and regular officer meet-ups to debate and discuss political priorities.
- Offer better personal support to officers both within NUS and across our movement

Building a 7 Million Strong Movement

- Bring back traditions of NUS activism, focussing on providing the best and most relevant training and empowering the future leaders of the movement
- Establish regional networks between different students' unions to strengthen their presence and come together to tackle issues
- Support grassroots campaigns by providing resources and legal advice to students leading efforts on the ground
- Build links with trade unions and communities in order to take united initiatives against the government's attack on education, public services and dissent

Lead the fight for Education

- Continue the fight towards a free and accessible education, from securing grants to cutting living costs
- Ensure a movement that is accessible to, and empowers, part-time students, mature students, carers and students with disabilities
- Provide support for postgraduate students against extortionate fees and exploitation on teaching contracts
- Support the work of our nations in defending their students and making the attacks on HE funding across Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales a priority for our whole movement
- Work alongside the Welsh officers in tackling the Diamond review
- Work alongside the International Students' Campaign for post-study visas, and against ever-rising International fees

Liberation in Practice

- Ensure priority campaigns and budgets are reflective of liberation campaigns
- Demand that better systems are put in place to prevent sexual harassment and assault on campus, as well as better support for survivors
- Amplify student led efforts to tackle the attainment gaps
- Work with nations to strengthen their liberation campaigns and collaboration across the UK
- Unify local initiatives for a liberated curriculum into a national movement
- Produce more resources for inclusivity for LGBT+ and disabled students
- Lead opposition against PREVENT and lobby to repeal the Act
- Work with NUS USI to support their Abortion Rights' Campaign

- Support the introduction of a trans officer and campaign
 - Fight to protect access to mental health services from cuts and government intervention
- Defend the future of Further Education
- Work closely with the VP FE to continue strengthening the #FEunplugged campaign
 - Identify the ongoing government area reviews as a key national priority and ensure that FE students are at the core of our work
 - Include FE students and representatives in the development of our national events, training days, and actions in order to truly unify our movement
 - Support NUS Scotland in their campaign for fairer funding for FE students' associations
 - Develop national campaigns alongside the VP FE to address attainment gaps, retention and diversifying the curriculum
- Delivering for our students' needs
- Campaign for better Mental Health provisions on campuses alongside the Disabled Students' Campaign
 - Address the criminalisation of international students as part of a wider rejection of xenophobic government agendas
 - Support the #BursaryOrBust campaign, while working alongside NHS campaigners for a fair, free, and inclusive health care system for all.

A number of student union including York and Oxford are agitating to reject membership of the National Union of Students, in the wake of the election of Malia Bouattia as the NUS's national president.

Salford delegates voted to elect Malia into post and therefore don't share this stance. Malia won her election on a strong mandate and Current FTOs and many delegates which attended the conference are in support of Malia. Allegations made against her are:

In 2014, she proposed a motion condemning ISIS.

On December 3, 2014, Bouattia submitted a motion at NUS National Executive Council on 'Kurdish Solidarity' which, among other things, condemned the "atrocities" committed by ISIS. The motion was adopted unanimously. (See <http://huff.to/1wWCK8J>)

She opposes racism, including antisemitism.

From her support for Holocaust Memorial Day (<http://bit.ly/20XZ1i7>) to efforts to combat Islamophobia (<http://bit.ly/1N4PNeq>), Bouattia emphasises the importance of fighting racism. She is also a strong supporter of the Palestinians' struggle for freedom from occupation and colonialism

Malia has spoken out and has addressed these accusations several times over articles and interviews. As an officer that has worked closely with her, it upsets me that her hardwork and success cant be celebrated instead she has received death threats. Regrdless I know Malia has proven her ability, ding so much with so little as a Balck student officer. I am excited for the future of NUS and very much look forward to working with her and the new NUS leadership team.

Cynthia Ochoga- NUS 2016 Conference Report.

This year's conference at Brighton was an amazing experience for me.

First of all, getting elected by students to represent this University to contribute to national debate and shape our coming year was a real privilege.

Being at the conference gave me an opportunity to:

- Make Salford's voice heard.
- Expand our network of allies and friends from other Union's for future collaboration.
- Debate on national policies and motions that could ultimately affect us as a Union and as students.

While at the conference, our delegation spotted two motions scheduled to lapse and attempted to have the issue debated on conference floor. Unfortunately, it fell into guillotine on the last day and we were unable to discuss it.

Also, I saw an opportunity to run in the Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) election and

I took it. I filled out a nomination form, and with the support of a fellow delegate got delegates from other Union's to nominate me. I was proud to climb the stage and announce that I am from Salford and offering myself to ensure a reformed DPC for next year. Although I'm not keen on winning it, I saw it as an opportunity to step up and get myself out there and I took it.

I also supported one of our delegates for the Block of 15 elections. It gave me joy to see our delegates getting active and politically involved on a national level and the support she received from other delegates was enormous. overall, the experience was a very good one for me and I would like to see our students become more politically involved.

Ceewhy Ochoga

NUS Delegate 2016.

Trustee Board report

Trustee Board Report

As per our constitution the Trustee Board must comprise of thirteen Trustees – 5 sabbatical officers, 4 student trustees and 4 external trustees to ensure decisions are made with transparency and efficiency. As some current trustees' contracts are due to end in June, external and student trustees' recruitment will take place in May.

1. Staffing Structure

This year the Students' Union undertook a staffing restructure. Two new positions were made available. Director of Governance and Resources and Rhiannon Roberts and Director of Strategy and Culture. The next step is to look at the next level of staffing. Interviews took also place for the role of Head of Relationships and Culture and the position was also filled. The Students' Union have now appointed a new Student Activities Co-ordinator starting from May.

2. Retail transfer

Our Frederick road shop has transferred over to Chartwells as from the 11th March and the new shop in Clifford Whithworth opened on 25th April. The delay was due to the external work in that area being delayed by BAM. The Adelphi shop will remain open until the building closes in the end of the term (May 2016).

Elections

Our annual elections took place in March and the new sabbatical officers' team have now been elected and will start their term as of 1st July. Thanks go to all students and staff who put lots of effort to make our elections successful this year. An amazing turnout of 3523 votes which is around 40% more compared to last year.