



UBU Student Council

Thursday 29 January 2015

Minutes of the Meeting

Present:

Alex Rees	<i>Chair of Student Council</i>
Tom Phipps	<i>Student Living Officer</i>
Alice Phillips	<i>Equality, Liberation & Access Officer</i>
Jo Woods	<i>Union Affairs Officer</i>
Alyx Murray-Jackman	<i>Sport & Student Development Officer</i>
Alex Bradbrook	<i>Academic Experience Officer</i>
Sorana Vieru	<i>Postgraduate Officer</i>
Ann O'Malley	<i>Student Fundraising and Projects Administrator</i>
Ryan Bird	<i>Director of Membership and Democratic Engagement</i>
Alicia Coupland	<i>Minutes</i>
Charlotte Miles	<i>Minutes</i>

There were 60 voting members in attendance and 5 observers.

1. Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at __18:46__ and announced that the meeting was quorate.

2. How Student Council works

3. Officer updates:

Alex Bradbrook:

- Study Spaces in Union
- Beacon House update

Alice Phillips

- Festival of Liberation – 4 panel discussions throughout February
- Exhibition on LGBT+ history in the link space

Tom Phipps

- Bristol European Green Capital
- Housing month and survey
- Embedding sustainability in UBU
- Supporting the campaign for fossil fuel divestment



Alyx M-J

- Varsity starts Sunday and continues throughout February and March
- Big Varsity event on 25th March – all students welcome
- Women in Sport Campaign update

Sorana Vieru

- Campaigning for fair pay for Postgraduates who teach
- 12 February – NUS day of action on work exploitation

Jo Woods

- General Election – get registered to vote
- 2500 free bananas given out over exam period

4. Student Submitted items:

Motion 1: Hire of Mortarboards during Graduation
Proposed by: Joey Tan

Joey Tan spoke for the motion.

Any speeches against the motion? No

Any questions?

Do the university currently require you to hire them and then not where them? A:

No

How much extra would this cost? A: Not sure but not very much, around £5 - £10

Is it worth having a referendum on this when student turnout is usually low?

Other universities don't have mortarboards and you can pose with one in the photo so why do you want them?

Any further speeches?

Vote result:

FAILED



Motion 2: Detail the definition of 'woman' in the UBU Byelaws
Proposed by: Megan Armstrong

Megan Armstrong spoke for the motion.

Any speeches against the motion? No

Any questions?

Q: Chinedu Umeh (Galencials President) – Does the current definition restrict people from doing anything that they want to do?

A: We already use the NUS definition but changing the Byelaws will ensure that in the future, UBU continues to use this definition

Any further speeches? No

Vote result: PASSED

Motion 3: Lobby NUS to change their gender quotas
Proposed by: Oscar Gilbert

Oscar Gilbert spoke for the motion.

Any speeches against the motion? Yes

Tom Phipps spoke against the motion.

Any questions?

How many delegates are elected? Would it be possible to have two separate elections for men and women? A: Would not be possible as we follow NUS policy.

What is the main focus of NUS, Representation or Democracy? A: To ensure fair representation, ensuring democracy for each NUS delegate. At least half the delegates should be women to be representative of the body of students at University.

Can it be amended so the intricacies are made clear when people are voting online.

A: Ryan – it will be more explicit next time.

Given the result were three men and three women, why do you not want it to remain equal? A: Firm belief in democratic process.

Any further speeches? No

Vote result: FAILED



Motion 4: Re-affirm UBU Stance on Free Education
Proposed by: Sorana Vieru

Sorana spoke for the motion.

Any speeches against the motion? No

Any amendments? No

Any questions? No

Any further speeches? No

Vote result: PASSED

Renewed Motion: Ban Slates in UBU Elections
Proposed by: Jo Woods

Jo Woods spoke for the motion.

Any speeches against the motion? No

Any amendments? No

Any questions? No

Any further speeches? No

Vote result: PASSED

Renewed Motion: Pro-choice motion
Proposed by: Alice Phillips

Alice spoke for the motion.

Any speeches against the motion? Yes

Any questions?

Is this to keep policy how it currently is? A:Yes

Where does it leave the pro-life society. A: They can continue to have their own belief but UBU's stance is pro-choice



Can we amend the motion to state that the union remain neutral on this issue. I want union to represent 'me' as a student and not influence decisions. A: Alice - This is already neutral policy.

Not amended as this is suggesting a different policy

What difference does this motion make, apart from infringing on free speech. This is already satisfied in publish law. A: Alice - It ensures that we can protect students and mobilise quickly should Abort67 (protest group) come onto campus.

Any further speeches? No

Vote result: PASSED

Discussion Topics

Discussion Topic: Prices of University Halls of Residences – Tom Phipps

Option A: Increase the rent of all rooms at a rate higher than inflation to account for increasing energy costs

Option B (Preferred): Make newer/refurbished/ensuite rooms more expensive to keep lower quality accommodation at the same price (or potentially lower)

Question and Answers:

Looking at the rate of inflation/energy use, I don't think the university is raising prices in line with this. They are raising prices at a much higher rate than inflation. We need to make accommodation more affordable

Is there no subsidy? A: There is no subsidy - but there is a bursary scheme but not specific to this.

I prefer Option B as this will help a lot of students who need it but won't have a big impact on those that choose to go for expensive rooms

Not always a choice - can depend on specific needs such as disabled students - we need to make sure the University take this into account.

Fuel Prices have been falling, which will challenge option A.

Favour of B: but it is important to remember that students that can afford more expensive rooms do not always end up in them. We need to look at allocation process.

Vote: Majority B



Discussion point 2 - Sports Pass – Alyx Murray-Jackman

Review of pricing policy of sports pass.

Think about models you would like put into place, get in contact so we take on your ideas. (alyx.murray-jackman@bristol.ac.uk)

-Extra costs of sports societies - could it be made so if you join a sports society you get a sports pass?

-Very difficult to recruit members who have not tried before. Access to sport via fit and fab, UBU active; these are cheap participations.

-Gym is not very good.

-Facility specific sports pass - to improve student satisfaction.

5. Notices / upcoming events

1. Update on AMM

-Encourage students to attend: anyone who attends can vote, free food (pizza), free drink in new bar.

-Lectures will be rescheduled so that students can attend

2. Student Elections: Nominations open tomorrow (30th January)

6. Any other business

No

The chair close the meeting at 20:30