

Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

14th November 2016, 3pm
The Metro & The Hub

Attendance & Apologies

Student Officers

Bedford

Ashley Beckman-Whelan
VP Activities and Engagement
Funmi Olaosebikan
VP Welfare & Equality
Jack Stowell
VP Community

Luton

Tara Alade (Chair)
President
Nicola Hemmings
VP Education

Beds SU Staff (as advisors)

Bedford

Adam Dembski-Bowden
Chloe Buxton
Danita Goodwin
Marcus Boswell

Luton

Amy McLaughlan
Ann Binks
Joel Vaughan
Kayleigh Clydesdale
Liis Tadolder-Bah
Michael Wigg
Richard Harding

Membership

Bedford

26 members in attendance

Luton

54 members in attendance

1. Welcome

Tara Alade (TA) welcomed students before explaining what an EGM is and how Beds SU has been strategically broken down into four strands; Be Heard, Be Entertained, Be Involved and Be Supported.

TA outlined the agenda for the meeting:

- The incorporation of Beds SU into a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital under the Companies Act 2015.
- The results of our Democracy Review and the associated changes to our democratic processes.
- NUS National Ballot: ***'Should NUS conduct and publish a risk assessment before finalising the NSS boycott/sabotage action?'***

2. Housekeeping

TA went through the housekeeping rules:

- Pointed out where the toilets are.
- Asked for mobile phones to be put on silent.
- Explained where the fire exits are and that no fire drills are planned.
- Reminded members that all Beds SU meetings operate under Beds SU Equality and Diversity policy.
- Checked all students had a voting card.
- Explained that all attendees will receive a free pizza once the EGM had finished.
- Explained the voting process: There will be a speech for the proposal, then a speech against the proposal. There will be balanced rounds of debate before going to a vote, where staff will count the voting cards in the air. TA advised students that they can vote for parts of a proposal, or propose an amendment.

3. Incorporation

of Beds SU into a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital under the Companies Act 2015.

TA explained what incorporation into a Company Limited by Guarantee would mean, how the new Memorandum and Articles would clarify the liability of the Trustee Board and what else would change.

The audience had no questions

Speech for proposal:

Jack Stowell (JS) – Bedford

JS believes that incorporation would safeguard the Union and would put the Union in a better position to make changes. He also states that it is massively important to ensure that the company has stability and that decisions are made based on students views.

Speech against proposal

No member offered a speech against the proposal.

TA asked members to vote for, against or to abstain from the proposal.

Results:

	Luton	Bedford	Total
For	52	24	76
Against	1	1	2
Abstain	1	1	2
Total	54	26	80

The motion passed.

4. Democracy Review Results

and the associated changes to Beds SU's democratic processes.

TA explained why a democracy review was needed, what it looked at and the steps taken to achieve the best results. The outcome of the democracy review was to change the full-time elected roles to; President, Vice President Education, Vice President Sports, Vice President Equality and Vice President Opportunities. Welfare will also be incorporated in the **President's role, as they currently sit on meetings involving** welfare. Furthermore, the part-time Officer roles were replaced with 9 Campus Liaison Officers; one for each campus. The Campus Liaison Officers will be the first point of contact for students at that campus, and will have been elected by the students of that campus. TA explained the **'Change It'** function on the Beds SU website, where students are able to submit ideas for change, the new Council system and Representational Associations, as well as how students can hold Executive **Officers accountable through 'Question Time' style sessions which will be held three times a year, and will be live streamed so all students can take part.**

The audience had no questions.

Speech for proposal:

Clive Sheridan (CS) – Bedford

CS is voting for this proposal. At last **year's AGM, CS** submitted a counter motion, which was passed, for a Vice President Bedford and MK to increase representation at some of the outreach campuses. They believes the new model will be able to give a point of view from every campus and all students will be able to question the Executive Officers and hold them to account.

Speech against proposal:

Luke Walsh (LW) – Luton

LW is a part of RadioLab, and believes that half of the students are disinterested in Beds SU. They believe that there should be a President for each of the 9 campuses and that there needs to be a change. That is why they will be voting against the proposal.

Speech for proposal:
Jack Stowell (JS) – Bedford

JS believes that we will not need a President for each campus, as the Campus Liaison Officers will be the first point of contact for students. They also believe that having a President for each campus could be counterproductive towards the campuses wishes, as they will have their own manifesto.

Speech against proposal:
Luke Walsh (LW) – Luton

LW states that Presidents and Campus Liaison Officers are not the same, and that each campus should have a President.

Question from the audience:
“Don’t understand the difference between President and Officer names, what is the argument about?”

LW stated that their argument is to have one elected full-time president at each campus.

Question from the audience:
To LW ***“Is this what you’re saying, you would like to get rid of all other officer roles and have Presidents for each campus?”***

LW replied that it was.

Speech for proposal:
Matthew Card (MC) – Luton

MC believes that having a president for each campus would segregate the campuses from each other.

Speech against proposal:
No member offered to further speak against the proposal.

Question from the audience:
“Will the President and VPs be visiting other campuses?”

TA answered that the Executive Officers will also be visiting the other campuses and will engage with the Campuses Liaison Officers to ensure that they are listening to all the students.

The audience had no further questions.

TA asked members to vote for, against or to abstain from the proposal:

Results:

	Luton	Bedford	Total
For	52	23	75
Against	0	0	0
Abstain	4	1	5
Total	56	24	80

The motion passed.

5. NUS National Ballot

TA played a video explaining what the National Ballot was, and that the students would be voting for running a risk assessment for the National Ballot.

Speech for proposal
Nicola Hemmings (NH) – Luton

NH asked the membership to call for the NUS to assess risk, as sabotaging the NSS could have adverse effects and could affect students from the poorest backgrounds. She explains that NSS has its supporters and critics, and is used to assess lectures etc. but the government is using it as a tool.
No one would like to speak against.

Question from the audience:

“What would be the disadvantage of doing a risk assessment?”

TA explained that by agreeing to the risk assessment, Beds SU would not support a boycott or sabotage **against this year’s NSS survey. If the decision post-assessment was to boycott or sabotage, it wouldn’t be until the next academic year.**

The audience had no further questions.

TA asked members to vote for, against or to abstain from the proposal:

Results:

	Luton	Bedford	Total
For	49	20	69

Against	0	4	4
Abstain	11	1	12
Total	60	25	75

The motion passed.

6. Any Other Business

National Demo

A national demonstration is taking place for free education and to stop cutting bursaries is taking place. If anyone is interested in joining, there is a sign-up sheet at the bar.

Society Members

A question was asked by an audience member about how do society members know how many members they have in their society. It was explained that they need to contact the treasurer of the society in question or the Beds SU Society Development Co-ordinator, who both have access to that information.