

Student Council

Meeting Minutes 11-05-2023

Date: 11-05-2023	Location: MS Teams	Duration: 1h11 (71m)
Attendance: Chieloka Emmanuel (CE), Leigh New (LN), Yvonne Collier (YC), Opeyemi Bamiro (OB), Gagandeep Kaur (GK), Bisola Olatunji (BO), Fathima Minsa Mohamed Marksook (FM) Late attendance: Kyriakos Iliou (KI) Apologies: Francis Blincoe-Deval (FBD), Deborah Hanson (DH) Absences: Tayabah Mahmood, Olukorede Oyewoga, Oluwatobiloba Adegboyega, Cheryl Caswell		
Staff Support: Tom Clarke (TC)		Minutes: Elisia Narbett (EN)

Meeting Start: 3:07pm

Quoracy at Start: 7 people present, 4 voting members, 3 votes = approval.

Voting conducted via 'Raise Hand' feature on MS Teams.

1. Opening Remarks

CE welcomes everyone to meeting and informs council that voting can take place this time, as we have reached quoracy. He outlines that we will have to approve outstanding reports, given that the last meeting was inquorate.

2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

4 hands raised = minutes approved

YC – any updates on actions from last meeting?

CE highlights the actions again and confirms no updates.

3. Officer Report and Questions

a) Approval of outstanding reports

- i) Voting for 15/03 report – 4 hands raised, report approved.
- ii) Voting for follow up questions – 3 hands raised, report approved
- iii) Voting for president report 28/03 – 4 hands raised, report approved
- iv) Voting for Academic Report – 4 hands raised, report approved
- v) VP Community Report 28/03 – 4 hands raised, report approved.

b) President Report

CE reminds that President is currently absent, so no report received.

c) Academic Officer Report (GK)

Gathered necessary links from university for the workshops – did discuss these with marketing. Plan to design a campaign page on the website and we are currently designing to make it eye catching and easy to use.

Cost of Living – did make a few informational videos but is struggling to upload due to editing needs. But once they're edited, these will also be posted.

Have shared the recipe card documents with marketing, they need to design and upload to website.

John Rafferty Meeting and photoshoot – talked about international issues and John took that on board. Will be meeting with the University finance team to look further into this.

SU Refurbishment – continued discussion with Charlotte, School Rep for Creative Industries to help with mural/art side of the project. BCU Trip – gave insight into how they are working collaboratively with the students and a better understanding of the figures and operations of a successful bar/café.

Culture meeting – more focus on new university policies.

KI joins meeting at this point.

Quoracy at this point: 8 people present, 5 voting members, 3 votes = approval.

CE invites questions.

YC - Update on strike action?

GK - Haven't attended any meetings since the last meeting about strikes. Also haven't received any further info from the students.

YC – Need to look at the marking strike now to be proactive because when people don't receive results, will be missing board.

GK – the University has mentioned they've been looking at finding alternative staff to cover marking but will keep on top of it and take anything back to the University as needed.



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LN – workshops – are you looking to send out automatic emails or putting things on Canvas?

GK – Good idea. University can't always send out emails about everything, but all this info is on the website, so this will act as a central point. GK is discussing the best way to display things but is planning to put all this in one place to make it easier on the website. Links often change – so the University can't send something out every time.

Comment from **YC** in chat – “The school reps can share with course reps in Teams channels to share with students?”

LN – there are people with hidden disabilities that can't access the website quite easily. Could add it into automatic email or on Canvas.

GK – Will discuss this with the marketing team.

d) Community and Welfare Officer Report (BO)

Sickle Cell – got an email from Genetics student that has contacts with community and engagement team. He would like to do an event and shared a link to flyers and marketing materials. Event – likely to be Sept/Oct.

National Donut Week – have sent posters and marketing. SU team working on flyers and uploading to website and donation link for the cause.

London Trip – 24 tickets sold so far. Another 21 hopefully by 2 June.

International Finance Issues – John has said that may have to look at increasing percentage of tuition fee paid before coming to the UK, but this is a unique situation. Will update council accordingly.

Pregnant student case – University has said they need a report to do anything.

Bilston Visit – looking at a community shop.

CE invites questions.

CE – Regarding international student fees – clarification, how much do you have to pay before you come to the UK to fully enrol?

BO – At present, you must pay 50%. VC said they may have to close applications from Nigeria unless there is another solution (i.e., increasing the percentage paid before arrival).

KI – Communication with students/officers.

Had an issue with society nomination – sent an email to multiple people in SU but received no response.



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TC notes this and says this will be picked up separately.

YC – during meeting with the VC, was anything mentioned about Telford?

BO – mentioned the space at Telford. He did note that the space isn't being used now, but if we put together report and propose something, sure he would be open to further discussion.

4. Motions for debate

a) End of Year Celebration

YC – speaking to some students. There is a need for something at the end of the year. Used to have grad ceremony to celebrate success. Often included alumni for networking.

No questions from council.

b) Reading Week during School Half Term

YC - Students often struggle to attend during half term weeks. It can be stressful and costly for childcare. SU can look at surveying students to see what is actually needed, whether it's facilities or to lobby the university for blanket implementation.

No questions from council.

c) Welcome Packs

YC - Should contain things like lanyards, maps, info on local area, SU leaflets. All will help to encourage belonging from the start and ensure students are informed about what the SU is doing from the very beginning.

It will also be a chance to outline services throughout the university, from ARC, to disability team, to finance team.

No questions from council.

d) Rescind the 'Open Campus Policy'

FBD absent, motion presented by seconder YC.

YC – gives background about the current policy. YC notes that while we're aware that the University already plan to move towards a closed campus policy next year, it's still a good idea to have it as a motion so that we stay on top of the University to maintain the implementation.

No immediate questions from council.

Voting

3c vote – 5 hands raised; report approved.

3d vote – 5 hands raised; report approved.

4a vote – 4 hands raised; motion approved.

4b vote – 4 hands raised; motion approved.

4c vote – 5 hands raised; motion approved.

4d vote – 5 hands raised; motion approved.

OB – asks for clarification as to current situation regarding open campus policy.

YC – explains the current open campus policy in further detail. Notes that security have just sent in a policy to for campus to be closed with key card access from next academic year. There are certain areas that are carded, but other areas that are open, so looking to make this more robust.

OB – is there data to back up the negative implications of the current situations?

YC – there are figures, both on the motion and further ones that will be published. At City the reasoning for the open campus policy was mainly access to Costa, but the motion argues that the footfall for this is not worth risking safety of students for.

OB – Notes that we should ensure measures are put in place for those who may forget their cards. They shouldn't be disadvantaged in this instance.

LN – Totally agree that a lot of people come in that aren't on campus just to use Costa. There have been non-students that will wonder into classes. Notes that people also do have their Canvas app as another form of proof of student status, so there will be other means in place.

6. Any Other Business (AOB)

a) Student Engagement with the Union

YC – What is being done on our end to ensure engagement with students?

BO – new marketing team will be starting soon which will help. **We plan to have conversations with him about engagement.** He has a lot of plans to put in place already and he's aware that engagement with the students is a pressing issue. BO has enquired about putting SU news on Canvas. Started newsletters, but there is a low open rate among students, so **need to rethink this strategy.**

GK – The marketing team are trying to raise awareness on social media and figure out which are most effective. They are working hard to improve. Meeting with the University to see how we can spread messages more widely. Also looking at promoting during lectures.



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The bar will also hopefully bring more students into the SU.

YC – Would be nice to see the officers more active at faculties and other campuses.

GK – Good idea. Did start doing monthly drop ins in MU but very few people engaged with us.

YC - Business School about to have fresh intake of international students and induction is next Friday.

b) UCU and Student Strike Awareness – mainly covered through GK updates.

c) Student Canvas Issues

YC - Potentially introduce some workshops – university wide of navigating canvas and other IT resources that will be useful for being a student.

GK – this is a good idea. Module on canvas – not something new but something students can already engage with. Will have to discuss with the University as they are the ones who oversee Canvas – but would be good to have that conversation.

Once we get confirmation from the University – don't think there should be any issues.

LN – everybody as a student concentrate more on Canvas, so we're more likely to get a direct line there. Have a 'skills to learn' section, 'library' section, etc. that people are drawn to. If app all about student union, it's easier for students to access and get the information they need.

BO – It's something that BO has mentioned in a meeting. IT person said happy to take it, so BO will pick it up and take it to Phil.

KI – clarification on a query that came through from student regarding APR sessions and continuation.

TC shared ARC as the best place to go to. **YC** also noted that School Rep should be able to help.

Meeting Close 16:18.



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Action Tracker

Key

	Completed
	In progress
	Not started

Action	Assigned to:	When?
Include more detail in officer reports.	All Officers	28 th Mar
Send out written report to council members	BO	28 th Feb
Ask the University how many people they're recruiting to ASK services and how this compares to student waitlists.	GK	28 th Mar
Take international student payment issues back to the University and investigate further.	BO	28 th Mar
Look at implementing an 'Events Calendar'.	All Officers	28 th Mar
Meet with marketing to look at putting the workshops campaign information on Canvas/automated email for those with disabilities who may find it difficult to use the website.	GK	Next meeting
Discuss society nomination issue.	KI and TC	N/A
Have discussions with new Head of Marketing and Innovation regarding engagement with students and devising new comms strategy.	BO and officer team	Next meeting and onward
Look into getting a Students' Union app/tab put on Canvas.	BO	Next meeting and onward