**Executive Committee Minutes**

**1. Attendance and apologies** – Apologies were noted

Attended: Habiba Amjad (HA); Nicole Berroa (NB); Joshua Richardson (JR); Issic Romel (IR).

Apologies: Rebecca Baker (RB); Stewart Boyd (SB); Afsheen Saleem (AS); Rachael Healey (RH).

Present: Ann Gough, CEO (AG); Robin Eves, Chair’s Aide (SV&DC); Dave Anson (SVM); Thomas Swainson, Secretary (C&DA).

**2. Minutes from the last meeting –** Accepted

**3. Matters arising**

**Double decker bus** – Double decker bus starting from the next academic year

**Influencing canteen prices** – Tackling with officers on tour to gauge new canteen prices

**Bus timetables** – Timetables should be available on campus bus stops

**4/5. Campaigns update**

BHM has been running for the past month and has cost just over £500 which is under its £600 budget. The current campaigns budget stands at around £1500. Once BHM is over accurate figures will be shared.

NB wishes to lead a campaign around academic misconduct

**6. CEO section**

JR brought up BHM presence on the Walsall campus saying students have seen the posters but haven’t seen any events. Movember is coming up and rugby are partaking.

AG talked to the team around attendance asking about how they’re going to tackling attendance.

JR said he would like more chance to talk to other part time officers to be able to make it change which was difficult with low attendance. JR talked around the impact of the double buses on Walsall. He mentioned the night time provision on the Walsall campus saying that it’s a long walk to the nearest local shop and an even longer walk into the town centre. Students feel like there isn’t anything around campus for night time entertainment or any alternatives to nights out.

He also stated there doesn’t feel like there are any social connections between the 3 campuses for students apart from students travelling for sports teams. This was also evident at the student extravaganza where attendance was lower than expected. City has the advantage of being set in a city setting for entertainment.

JR also mentioned that there isn’t anyone for people to talk to on campus if people just need company. JR suggested that the Welcome Squad could be tasked with providing a friendly face for students so they don’t feel isolated in their accommodation. JR talked about a peer mentoring scheme in musical theatre that enables students to meet new friends as well as benefitting them academically. HA raised there was peer to peer mentoring in the sports department.

AG reflected on the points raised by JR talking about how the Union could champion such a scheme to help students feel a sense of belonging to their university community.

HA commented on the points raised by JR agreeing that the social connections between the campuses is weak. The isolation of students is reflected by the SU survey.

NB said if we can target the engagement with students, we can provide that sense of belonging. IR seconded that thought saying we need to improve our engagement.

JR suggested just a vending machine in a more prominent or convenient location could provide a needed service.

NB asked if international students were stereotypically the isolated students. JR said quite a lot of international students are split into separate flats and are not always provided with opportunities to meet students in similar situations. JR said there are attempts within his rugby team to engage international students and have had some success in recruiting them. If we can engage relentlessly with students around events and opportunities we will see a better reception from them.

AG reflected on the points raised and said there is a responsibility of students and student reps to help engage isolated students.

She went on to comment on the attendance of the committee saying that we need to adjust our meeting times to better reflect the timetables of our students.

SV&DC queried why liberation reps aren’t members of the exec. Dave answered claiming that it was just how the governance document was developed.

AG said the terms of reference of the exec should be addressed because the effectiveness of the committee is severely limited by its current structure. Ann recommended that the exec should be reformed to be more engaging for the part time officers.

SV&DC commented on other unions’ executive meetings saying that several unions meet weekly on a set day each week.

AG suggested we should start from scratch and look at a completely new structure to raise effectiveness. The majority of the officers present agreed we should look at the structure and complete revise it.

IR agreed saying that the meetings should reflect the part time officers’ timetables. JR suggested that the faculty reps should be invited to create that sense of peer engagement and mentoring. JR also stated that the membership should change to reflect a more operational meeting to allow tasks to be completed more effectively.

AG suggested canvasing union council members for the same reasoning as the exec to ensure that attendance is increased by creating a timetable that allows the highest engagement. SV&DC said that once the new officers are in post we’ll start to have a more detailed data on student availability. AG claimed we’re pressed by time which doesn’t allow the level of progress that we need to achieve.

HA suggested the meeting to be closed and rearranged with a newer structure to try and engage the PTOs. AG suggested keeping the communication with officers constant to allow them to understand what’s going on.

JR raised a couple more issues around Walsall such as Squeeze Box opening times and access to the cash machine. AG commented saying that there is a Walsall strategy being developed and offered engagement from JR and the Squeeze Box staff.

HA said the meeting structure is too formal and prescriptive. Officers agreed that the meeting should be rearranged.

**Meeting ajourned**