

# AGENDA

## General Meeting/Communities Zone

### 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020



A meeting of the Students' Union General Meeting/Education Zone will be held on **6<sup>th</sup> February, 2020** from **5:00pm in Lecture Theatre A3**.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

##### 1.1 Members Present

Chloe Whyte CW Union President  
Amy Smith AS VP Education  
Josh Muirhead JM VP Communities

Ordinary Members OM

(Due to recording issues we do not have details of all the part-time officers in attendance)

##### 1.2 In Attendance

##### 1.3 Observers

Rosamund Vickers RV Democracy and Representation Coordinator

##### 1.4 Apologies

Gill Thayne GT Sports President

##### 1.5 Absent without Apologies

#### MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Adopting minutes from Previous Meeting

OM – Proposed

OM - Seconded

#### CHALLENGES TO ORDER OF PAPER

CW

- Arts Officer Motion moved to 9.2
- Motion to Protect Trans Rights and Support GRA Reform moved to 9.3
- Equalities Zone motion moved to 9.4
- NUS Mental Health Motion subsequently moved to 9.5
- Effective Union Representation Motion subsequently moved to 9.6

#### DATES TO NOTE

- 4.1 LGBT+ History Month – February
- 4.2 Launch of NSS – 10<sup>th</sup> Feb
- 4.2 Fairtrade Fortnight – 24<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March
- 4.4 Check Yersel Campaign – 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb
- 4.6 Inspirational Womens Awards Nominations Close – 4<sup>th</sup> March
- 4.7 Clubs Ball Tickets on Sale, Nominations currently open.  
Nomination Close 6<sup>th</sup> March
- 4.8 Clubs Ball – 9<sup>th</sup> April
- 4.9 Rate Nominations Open

CW - Additional Date to Note – Strike has been announced, dates will be released at a later date, and we will be FAQs posted soon.

#### ELECTIONS & RESIGNATIONS

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- 5.1 Union Elections
  - (i) Nominations Open 10<sup>th</sup> Feb
  - (ii) Nominations Close 21<sup>st</sup> Feb
  - (iii) Voting Open 9<sup>th</sup> March
  - (iv) Voting Closes 10<sup>th</sup> March
- 5.2 Elections Committee (x2)

Candidates: Aaron Caulfield, Aylie Fucella  
Elected: Aaron Caulfield, Aylie Fucella

### REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

#### 7.1 Union President

CW - ED&I strategy published online, continued work online, please get in touch if you want to get involved. Working with Womens Officer on Inspirational Womens awards, interviewing 20 inspirational women. Travel consultation ongoing with VP Education and Cycling Officer. Purple Friday, on last Friday of pride month, event in Pathfoot, living library – chat to people about their experiences, please get in contact if you wish to volunteer.

#### 7.2 VP Education

AS – Working on students downloading Ecosia and availability of Ecosia in the library. Working on documents with the NUS action group on student finance, putting a motion forward at conference. Campus central due to be completed at the end of February, but a longer wait for new building and Link Bridge. Working on a learning analytics ethical policy in relation to the University Enhancement theme. RATE nominations are still open. Student travel consultation with Union President and Cycling Officer. NSS launched on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> years will be students will fill it out.

#### 7.3 VP Communities

JM - 79 clubs, over 1400 members. Aussie action week, collaboration of clubs, please get involved, anime movie screening and quiz tonight. Refreshers clubs and societies fair went well. Communities zone events, Check Yersel week, Pride week, please get involved. Pleased to announce we have secured a rent deal. Air3 cottage has secured funding, work being done to improve the cottage.

#### 7.4 Sports President

CW (reading on behalf of Gill Thayne) - Kit contract will not be extended after a consensus amongst sports students, update will come shortly. Sports ball, tickets now on sale. Sports day in refreshers, £180 raised at the sports quiz. University Mental Health week, week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Redevelopment going well, working with director of sport on work going forward for clubs. BUCS leagues, early indication 10<sup>th</sup> in the UK, great start.

### DISCUSSION AND DECISION TOPICS

#### - SUBSECTION – COMMUNITIES ZONE

8.1 Clubs Grant Update - Clubs Grant currently sits at £1198.40 and has to be applied for by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March and used by the 31<sup>st</sup> of May.

#### - SUBSECTION – GENERAL MEETING

- 9.1 Schedules Review Motion
  - (i) Schedules Review Bill

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Proposer - AS – Review bill has come from Constitutional Working Group of the Union, which is a sub-committee to trustee board. It relates to governing documents of Students' Union, which must be updated every 5 years. The review bill is online on student union website.

AS – This allows us to implement needed changes to elections and referenda schedule, constitution, and standing orders schedule.

CW – Update, proposers get 2 minutes to speak, ordinary members speak against, can speak for, and ask questions.

Nothing from the floor. Voting opens.

For – 73

Against – 4

Abstain\* - 23

MOTION PASSED

#### 9.2 Arts Officer Motion

Proposer – OM – Can be ran for in upcoming elections, has backing of various arts societies, extra support for arts societies. The two main reasons for this motion is to have someone to support the Cottage Fund so it is well managed and sustained in future, and second is to have an Officer to liaise and ensure we work closely with MacRobert.

CW – Anyone against? No. Any questions

OM – would the officer work solely be in the communities zone, or all zones?

OM – Currently under communities zone.

JM – It would be under communities zone, but officers aren't chained to their zone, they can work across zones, particularly sports in this instance.

CW – Any further questions? No. Voting is now open.

For – 98

Against – 2

Abstain\* - 8

MOTION PASSED

#### 9.3 Motion to Protect Trans Rights and Support GRA Reform

Proposer absent so being presented by seconder – OM – Read on behalf of Eli, who wrote the statement as officer and personally, current process limits trans rights, identifying as trans I must go through years of process to identify as an identity I have known of years, I ask students here today to support this motion and support GRA and trans recognition.

CW – Any questions, comments? No. Arguments against? No. Arguments for?

OM – Speaking in favour. The current system is unfit for purpose, exclusion on financial basis amongst things. I understand it is contentious, but it is to make legal document change easier, as having documents which do not match your identity creates significant barriers. I believe the Union should support this particularly in light of new ED&I policy.

CW – Anymore for?

OM – Cannot speak on behalf of the transgender community, but as part of LGBT+ I think we should stand with them.

CW – Any final comments?

OM – Speaking in favour. The current employment legislation also does not support transgender individuals, so supporting GRA is a very important move in the right direction which might help change other disadvantages.

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CW – Voting opens.

For – 99

Against – 5

Abstain\* - 4

MOTION PASSED

#### 9.4 NUS Mental Health Motion

JM Assumes Chair of the meeting.

Proposer – CW - Each sabbatical officer chairs a Union student meeting of which I run General Meetings and Equality Steering Group Meetings (ESG). The ESG brings in fewer students, which follows that it is for minority students, but also the name singles it out from the other Zones and generates confusion as students do not know they can attend as with other Zones.

JM – Any questions?

OM – This has been a problem for years, quorum has been rejected as not enough students have turned up. Perhaps more than a name change, but held like a council meeting where less emphasis on voting but more of a discussion forum. This would better represent the views of students within the equalities remit.

CW – This is what we currently do, every student is welcome to contribute, discussions are added, and there is now no quorum due to low turnout. This is just a name change, but we have discussed in the ESG meetings further changes to increase turnout, such as various media to advertise, increased collaboration etc.

OM – Is this advertised on Canvas? As never seen Equalities Zone on canvas.

AS – General Meetings and Education Zones are on Canvas as attendance at these is a requirement for module representatives.

CW – This can be extended for all zones.

HM – Might get more participation via online interaction as sometimes people are not well enough to attend.

CW – Outside this motion this is something we can definitely take forward.

JM – Anyone against? No. Anyone for?

SJ – There is no reason for it to have name different from other zones, and it will follow the Union governing documents.

JM – Voting opens.

For – 74

Against – 1

Abstain\* - 16

MOTION PASSED

#### 9.5 Equalities Zone Motion

Proposer – OM – As NUS delegates, we want to take this to Scottish and National NUS Conference, poor mental health is a big issue across the UK, we want NUS to help all unions push this to be a higher priority for all universities. We wish to pass it here so we can take it to the NUS conferences.

CW – Any questions?

OM – What would happen with this motion at NUS if we pass it here first.

DD – By passing it here, we can take this to NUS and push it to be passed at conference, and if passed it would mandate NUS to work to increase awareness and push for more funding from Universities and empower all student unions to push this.

OM – But resolves have been removed, so how will this motion now be brought forward under this new system?

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DD – The motion is in this current form as it must pass here through our system, but it will be adapted after this to fit NUS conference motion system. The adapted form will be publicised online.

JM – This also supplements the survey NUS have already launched.

OM- This survey has closes soon, but I have seen little about it from the Union, so think this should be promoted more.

CW – Against? No. For?

OM – I think we need to encourage our NUS officers to take this to conferences, to empower NUS and unions to pressure unions to increase priority and funding from mental health support.

OM – Our University is currently suffering from poor mental health support, and we should support this motion, so I think Universities across the country should be pressured to provide more support and guidance for those who need mental health support.

OM – When I started University, I suffered poor mental health and felt I had little support from the University when I started, there are good people working at the Student Hub but they need support to continue to the good work they do.

CW – Voting opens.

For – 80

Against – 0

Abstain\*- 2

MOTION PASSED

#### 9.6 Effective Union Representation Motion

Proposer – OM – Proposal hopefully tackles ambiguity, and removes constraints on the student officers and helps hold them to account. Through Quickfire consultation policy a concern could be raised with the Union on political issues so officers can then put out statements which reflect the student body for things which fall outside of the core union policy.

CW – Any questions.

OM – Under “GM resolves – point 3”, who makes the decision which policy should go past the quickfire stage?

AV – the motion does not provide a specific layout, but it can be worked on.

OM – But is there a specific number required for it to be taken further by officers?

CW – The number is outwith this motion.

OM – Can the 24hr window be extended as this could hamper political engagement? Would there be any flexibility?

AV – Happy to discuss, this was a suggested time limit. Happy to have amendments proposed.

OM – How are you going to make sure enough students take part in the Quickfire policy?

AV – This motion is to repeal unwieldy policy, happy to have a further motion on numbers required for it to be discussed.

OM – COMMENT NOT HEARD SO UNABLE TO RECORD

AV – Apologies I did not contact you in advance, I am more than happy to collaborate in future.

CW – Any further questions?

OM – Why not move to amend rather than appeal the policy, why should we repeal it rather than amend it.

AV – In relation to which motion are you asking this question?

OM – No comment.

Moves On

OM – Proposed amendment, amend section 3 be moved to 48 hours, and for it to require the quorum of general meeting to be taken further by officers.

CW – Any speakers against the amendment?

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OM – Speaking in favour - I think the longer we have the better, not so long it is ineffective, but enough time to vote.

OM – Speaking against – I do not want to see Union Officer Neutrality repealed, I think the officers, who represent all of the student body, should remain neutral.

CW – Any comments about the amendment one relating to having 48hrs for Quickfire policy to meet numbers?

OM – Second amendment, for it to be taken further by officers the policy must meet the quorum of a general meeting.

#### AMENDMENT 1 (under GM Resolves) –

From “3. In cases where political decisions falling out with the Union Core Policy are important to the student body, the Union will launch online consultations (with a time limit of 24 hours) known as ‘Quickfire Policy’ to assess student opinions, and then use results as a basis to make comments in a timely manner.”

To “3. In cases where political decisions falling out with the Union Core Policy are important to the student body, the Union will launch online consultations (with a time limit of 48 hours) known as ‘Quickfire Policy’ to assess student opinions, and then use results as a basis to make comments in a timely manner.”

For – 45

Against – 4

Abstain\* – 7

#### AMENDMENT PASSED

#### AMENDMENT 2 (under GM Resolves) –

Add “4. The consultation subject must be supported by the same number as the quorum for a General Meeting for the subject to be taken forward and comment made by the Union.”

For – 41

Against – 2

Abstain\* - 9

#### AMENDMENT PASSED

CW – Current Motion with both Amendments, anyone wish to speak for?

OM – The original motion is valid, but the motion as amended means that Quickfire Policy will have a clear time limit and a clear participation number required.

CW – Any questions? No. Any arguments against?

OM – This motion as originally proposed or amended, what it does is remove the safeguards against the favouring of particular groups, this motion was in relation to a particular group who harassed Union members, by passing this it opens the flood gates of bullying by particular groups.

CW – Any arguments for?

OM – The Union can always be improved and that the actions of prior sabbatical officers should not dictate the power of current sabbatical and part-time officers.

CW – Any more arguments for or against?

OM – Remember we all go to the same University, please can we keep this calm, I was not here when the original motions were passed, amendments were brought at the time and fell heavily and this left policies which did not work. This motion would provide the ability of the Union to have a right to consult students on political points.

CW – One more for and against.

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OM – Back in 2015, people used their influence within the Union to support criminal actions by the CND, I do not trust officer to not use this for personal political reasons again.

CW – Reminder this about the motion, not the people proposing it.

OM – Any instance of bullying will be dealt with by the Union, which is separate from this motion and should not be associated with it.

**MOTION GOES TO VOTE AS AMENDED**

For – 37

Against – 5

Abstain\* - 16

**MOTION PASSES**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10.1 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – Communities Zone – LTA.4

10.2 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – General Meeting/Education Zone – Location TBC

**RESERVED BUSINESS**

\*Abstain votes noted above are those who specifically recorded it as a vote on the online voting system Mentimeter, but ordinary members who were present but did not vote are included in the overall abstention. As such the numbers listed should not be taken as a full indication of the meeting attendance number.