

Communities Zone

25th March
5-6pm

C.LTA3 / MS TEAMS

Minutes

- **Welcome**
- **In Attendance**
 - Members Present
 - Vice President Communities, Justine Pédussel (JP)
 - In Attendance
 - 29 Student Members
 - Union Staff Support
 - Apologies
 - Sustainability Officer, Jani Belvalkar (JB)
 - Absent without apologies
 - Arts Officer, Khushhali Gupta (KG)
 - Co-Curricular Officer, Ben Alker (BA)
 - Housing Officer, Toby Wordie (TW)
 - International Officer, Nnamdi Igbokwe (NI)
 - Media Officer, Kyle Bruce (KB)
- **Minutes Ratification**
 - Minutes ratified by JP.
- **Challenges to Order Paper**
 - None
- **Dates to Note**
 - Decorations making session for SU awards: 27th March
 - Decolonising the University lessons from Palestine & Israel Panel: 27th March
 - Callander field trip X Earth & Environment: 29 – 30th March
 - Eid Al-Fitr: 30th March
 - CZEC Deadline: 30th March
 - Inspirational Women's Awards: 31st March
 - SU Awards: 3rd April
 - Deadline to submit 25/26 committee: 8th April
 - Equalities Zone: 11th April
 - Beaver talk with Dr Alice Turner, wildlife conservation: 16th April

- Student Leader Training Day: 13th May
- Society Dates to Note
 - Photography & Art Club: exhibition 2nd April at the MacRobert Art Centre, £6.60 for non-members and discounted for members
- **Elections & Resignations**
 - Elections:
 - VP Communities: Ellie Hammond
 - Housing Officer: Aidan Lewis
 - Arts Officer: Tom Mackenzie
 - Sustainability Officer: Erin Smith
- **Reports**
 - VP Communities (JP):
 - Organising with SABS in relation to housing and currently at stage 2 of the housing bill, lobbying for first amendments and better housing rights for students. JP personally met with 9 MSPs, including Graham Simpson who is chair of the Cross-Party Group for Housing. In total, the campaign has met with 22 MSPs.
 - Worked with Advice Team to reexamine Enhancement Fund Questions. They have been revised and completely rewritten, as they were intimidating. If there's any questions, please get into contact.
 - Supporting societies with sustainability initiatives. Green meet, which involved collaboration between the university and other organisations and had positive feedback. Working on Green Impact application which won excellent over the last year.
 - Society showcase for February was the Law Society for organising their internal meeting competition. Feminist and Politics societies hosted a great women's History Month with a range of events. JP hosted a workshop on women's suffrage for one of their wonderfully organised events.
 - SU Awards ball is on April 3rd.
 - Helped organise a campaign exchange day in Dundee, 26 attendees from 14 unions gave presentations on who they are and the different structures and networking.
 - Organised campaign training for activists and others interested in campaign skills.
 - Working with President, VP Education and university to reexamine the curriculum structure and can answer any questions on that.
 - Participating in a national campaign to ban conversion therapy. Led by volunteer officer at UCLan. If you want to support you can come by the office and sign a postcard, it will be distributed and sent to relevant politicians.

- Sustainability Officer (JB), JP speaking on behalf:
 - Represented students in a Universities Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - Helped during green week events: sustainability fashion fair, bug walk for bio blitz, climate policy workshops with Politics and Earth & Environment society, along with Wildlife Conservation.
 - Overnight conservation trip to Callendar this weekend to offer conservation help for the Woodland Trust.
 - Involved running free breakfast every Monday throughout the semester and securing more funding to continue next year also expanding food initiative setting up another fridge and freezer.
 - Working on Green Impact Report for the Student Union and attended a corporate sustainability steering group meeting.
- **Updates, discussion and decision topics**
 - Congratulations to SU Awards Nominees
 - Equality Zone Elections
 - 4 equality officer positions to represent BAME, Women, LGBTQ+ and Disabled Students.
 - Candidates must attend Equality Zone on April 11th, giving a brief speech on who they are and why they are running for the position.
 - Vote will take place immediately following speeches.
 - Link to apply in meeting agenda.
 - Academic Societies & Department Support
 - JP looking for brief overview of the type of support academic societies get from the relevant departments.
 - OM: Brig doesn't get any support from the journalism department. I'm aware other student newspapers get things like InDesign training which would be particularly useful, and just general support.
 - OM: The Photography Society received some new equipment at the beginning of the year which was really nice. We also had a lecturer come and give a very nice guest lecture; we are having another guest lecture on Monday. So yes, we are getting support, but we are the ones going to lecturers and asking.
 - OM: The economic society get a lot of support departmentally. We have the undergraduate economic space where we can post announcements when we do events. We have the economic honours room that's open to all undergraduates, and we have anticipated financial support for when we do an essay competition next year. We don't have much to complain about department wise in terms of the support we get.
 - OM: As the Politics society, we get a lot of support from the department, but we have to go out and ask for it. Very dependent on the relationship with the lecturer.

- JP: What type of support would you like to receive from departments for your departments?
- OM: Have the department reach out at the start of the year to have a conversation about what they want. Better cross communication about how to get integrated with departments and societies.
- OM: For Brigg, InDesign training would be great as the current editors teach the new editors but unsure if there's even a module that teaches InDesign. It's the industry standard that other student newspapers use and they get support from their universities or unions. Brigg does a lot for the department such as attend offer holder days but there's not much coming back the other direction.
- **Any Other Business**
 - OM: Specifically with marketing, use to put posters up as you'd walk to the union, no one's really walking that direction, maybe a new place for societies to put up the posters.
 - JP: Since the library as a study space there's no advertising at all except for specific things. You can put things on the table on reception area.
 - OM: Any potential about societies using the electronic screens?
 - JP: We don't have access to the screens as they belong to the university, in theory societies can just the university could say no if they deem other things more important.
 - JA: Very often only approve events if it's in relation to their Be-Connected programs. If you make a good case for why you're reaching out to different backgrounds and protected characteristics that could help. You also can add an event to the listings in your portal or request for things to be added to the student bulletin.
 - OM: Can you see how many students interact with the student bulletin? As they didn't get much engagement through emails. Is there a high proportion of people opening e-mails through the student bulletin?
 - JP: It's very similar to Instagram in terms of engagement. But it's different than the ones you would find through Instagram.
 - JA: This will all get discussed on student leader training day on 13th May.
 - OM: Marketing officers on Union page don't get access to much of the admin options and would be good if the marketing officer can be able to engage with the things they have to.
 - JA: We'll work on that.
 - OM: Wildlife Conservation Society is getting more support from Bez during Green Week and the department is being rather responsive compared to before.
 - OM: International society working with career service and unsure if there's any relevant departments to seek help from.
 - JA: Unsure for international society.
 - OM: The arts, spoke to arts curator and they were keen to work on art things and collaborate with the societies. Just to point out.

- JP: Steam Leader Training is on 13th May from 9:00 – 17:00. 13 sessions all aimed at training team leaders, especially committees to support their student groups effectively and replace annual societies academy. Some are compulsory for new committees to attend and others recommended based on committee position. Some have limited spaces, such as NHS Brooke Valley, so will need to register.
- There's increasing complaints from members, including students with disabilities having issues accessing societies, want to ensure you are attending these sessions.
- Sessions led by the union will be hybrid sessions therefore attendance to some capacity is still expected. Ensure your incoming committee is aware of this.
- OM: If anyone has any dietary need for the provided lunch, where do they let you know?
- JP: Once the committee list is sent the details will be sent for dietary and accessibility. But there will be automatic catering for vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, halal.
- OM: Are the harm reduction and general admin all going to be at the same time?
- JP: Yes, harm reduction and overdoes awareness and luxem training from 9:30 – 12:30, at the same time there will be money support GBP and sexual violence vs responder training. Within your society, please choose which are the most relevant to each of your committee members.
- OM: How do we submit the committee member list? When is the deadline?
- JA: E-mail the union to get the information before the 9th April .
- OM: Will training be on teams?
- JP: Not everything will be on teams but parts of it will be.
- JP: Reminder that the final CZEC grant application is this Sunday the 30th March. If you have any questions or ideas?
- OM: Does the grant application need to be submitted by a specific committee member?
- JP: Any committee member.
- OM: Secretary needs to take minutes of AGM is there a template?
- JP: Yes, there is.
- OM: Do CZEC grants cover publicity costs for new societies?
- JP: Up to the committee to approve your application and if not, explain why they don't.
- **Date of Next Meeting:**
 - September or October of 2025
- **Reserved Business**