

Communities Zone

1st October
5-6pm

C.LTB4/ MS TEAMS

Minutes

- **Welcome**
- **In Attendance**
 - Members Present
 - Vice President Communities, Justine Pédussel (JP)
 - Housing Volunteer Officer, Tobey Wordie (TW)
 - Sustainability Volunteer Officer, Jani Belvalker (JB)
 - In Attendance
 - 22 Ordinary Members
 - 3 Staff Support
 - Apologies
 - International Volunteer Officer, Nnamdi Igbokwe (NI)
 - Media Volunteer Officer, Kyle Bruce (KB)
 - Absent without apologies
 - Co-curricular Volunteer Officer, Ben Alker
- **Minutes Ratification**
 - Minutes ratified by JP
 - No objections
- **Challenges to Order Paper**
 - No challenges to order
- **Dates to Note**
 - [SU Elections](#) – Extended Nomination Period: 30th September – 2nd October, Voting Period: 15th – 17th October
 - Black History Month – October
 - [Democracy Review](#) – 2nd October
 - Climate Festival: 7-11th October
 - [Stirling Fund](#) Deadline: 8th October
 - [General Meeting](#): 10th October
 - [CZEC Grant Deadline](#): Sunday 13th October (CZEC is the 15th)
 - [GBV & SV First Responder Training](#): 16th October
- **Elections & Resignations**
 - Elections
 - CZEC

- OM asks whether all the CZEC roles available need to be filled for CZEC to exist and make decisions?
 - STAFF answers that for decisions made to be valid elected members need to be consistently attending meetings. So only volunteer if you can commit to attending the meetings.
 - OM asks when the meetings take place?
 - STAFF answers saying that the dates will be 15/10/24, 19/11/24, 04/02/25 and 01/04/25.
 - Positions elected:
 - Adam Johnston, Politics Society President
 - Ellie Hammond, True Crime Society President
 - Positions unfilled:
 - x3 lay members
- **Reports (the Communities Zone reports can be reviewed in the agenda)**
 - Vice President Communities, Justine Pédussel
 - Housing Volunteer Officer, Toby Wordie
 - Report read by JP.
 - TW been working with JP on housing issues. TW working to raise awareness of Housing Volunteer officer role and issues with students. TW been working on dealing with housing case work. If students have any housing issues, please contact TW.
 - Co-curricular Volunteer Officer, Ben Alker
 - Not present, no apologies given, or report submitted.
 - Sustainability Volunteer Officer, Jani Belvalkar
 - JB said they supported with the Alternative Fayre that took place at the end of welcome week. JB hosted a landscape evolution and painting workshop to increase awareness about the issue and how it affects people. JB attended a wildflower meadow planting session.
 - JB informs the Green and Blue space ran a campaign called Fair Trade Fortnight to raise awareness for fair trade efforts and incentives more ethical consumption.
 - JB to attend carbon literacy training and training to become a Climate Café facilitator.
 - JB hosting a sustainable fashion show to promote second hand consumption for the Climate Festival as a part of the Zero Waste Campaign.
 - JB in touch with the Sports Union and Sports President to discuss how to integrate sustainability into sports clubs.
 - International Volunteer Officer, Nnamdi Igbokwe
 - Report read by JP.
 - NI been collaborating with BeConnected University team for the Nigerian Independence Day (1/10/24).

The celebrations included Nigerian music and cuisine and events to explain Nigerian culture to all. NI has been reaching out to international student communities to build stronger connections between them.

- Media Volunteer Officer, Kyle Bruce
 - Report read by JP.
 - KB has checked with media societies to find out if they had any issues. Media societies reporting issues with finding space to do society activities since the displacement from RAAC last academic year. KB assures this is soon to be resolved for all media societies as most should be moving into new spaces shortly. KB has been meeting and working with the University about the possibility of increased University coverage of student sports teams.
- Arts Volunteer Officer, VACANT
 - Role currently vacant and open for students to run for the position in up-coming elections.
 - Extended nomination period: 30th September – 2nd October 2024.
- **Updates, discussion and decision topics**
 - Committee memberships grace period
 - JP explained that grace period for committee memberships ends on 11th October and that core committee members will need to have purchased their memberships by this date for their roles to be recognised on their transcripts. JP also informed meeting that all core committee members need to have paid their memberships for their claims to be paid.
 - Student Union Elections
 - JP tells meeting that the Arts Volunteer Officer role is available and encouraged members to nominate themselves. JP explains that the Arts Volunteer Officer is responsible for leading arts campaigns at the Union and sits on CZEC. JP tells students the extended nomination period is 30th September to 2nd October.
 - First Aid and SMHFA (Scottish Mental Health First Aid) training
 - JP says that the First Aid dates are still to be confirmed but are likely to be at the end of October/beginning of November on a Sunday from 9:30am-5pm. JP informs that the first aid qualification is valid for 3 years.
 - JP says that the SMHFA training dates are not yet confirmed but are likely to be during reading week (21st-25th October).
 - Volunteering Module & Volunteer of the Month
 - JP informs students of the volunteering module on the website for students to track their volunteering

- experience on campus and externally. Students can log their hours, track their skills and receive a final certificate.
- JP announces Volunteer of the Month, Corey, for their volunteering work within the Green and Blue space and on environmental campaigns.
 - JP informs members that each month there will be a Volunteer of the Month and that any volunteering efforts will be counted including society work.
- Grant applications
 - JP informs members that if they are wanting to submit a grant application, the Students' Union is happy to help support these applications.
 - Hidden disability lanyard
 - JP informs members that there is £130 for getting hidden disability lanyards for students. This would be able to cover buying around 30 individual lanyard and there is a possibility of applying for funding to purchase more if needed.
 - JP asks meeting if they think doing this is a useful thing to do.
 - OM says that it might be good to advertise the lanyards and set up a form for students to reserve a lanyard so that a rough idea of how many people are interested can be gathered.
 - JP says they like that idea and will be implementing this.
 - OM asks whether there is precedent for lanyards being popular with students?
 - STAFF answers saying that the Students' Union offers lanyard to the Academic Reps and there are very popular. In addition, the pronoun badges that are offered are equally popular.
 - Collecting societies logos
 - JP explains that they are creating a database of societies logos so the Students' Union has access to high quality versions for promotional media.
 - Feedback forms
 - JP shows qr codes for member to fill out feedback forms for experiences with buses, ARUAs and the government's housing consultation.
 - Buses feedback: JP explains that they use the feedback from this form to inform the meetings JP has with McGill's bus company.
 - ARUAA feedback: JP explains this form is for anyone who has ever applied for an ARUAA and this project is in collaboration with DSAS. The link to find this form can be found here.
 - Government housing consultation: JP explains that this form is for the governments review of student housing and that anyone who has lived in student accommodation for any period of time since 2016 is eligible to fill in the form.

- OM asks whether the date question on the form is for today's date or the date the event occurred.
 - JP answers that it is meant for the date the event occurred.
- **Any Other Business**
 - No other business.
- **Date of Next Meeting:** 12th November.
- **Reserved business**