



UL STUDENTS' UNION
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University of Lincoln Students' Union Student Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Student Council
Held at 5.00pm on Tuesday 24th February 2009
MB1009, Main Admin Building, Brayford Campus.

Present:

Chair

Amanda Davidson (HLSS Representative)

Council Members

Ben Arrowsmith (International Students' Representative)

Gloria Dei (AAD Representative)

Dan Derricott (B&L Representative)

Emma Devine (Student Officer)

Emily Gough (RAG Representative)

Steven Greaves (Student Officer)

Daniel Hutchinson (SU President)

Brigitte Kabangue (Chair Ents Committee)

Lucy Lucas (Riseholme Council Representative)

James Mason (Student Officer)

Chris Roberts (VP Sports and Teams)

Carli Ann Smith (B&L Representative)

Kayleigh Turner (VP Education)

Maria Yesufu (VP Societies and Activities)

Students' Union Members

Eunice Amartey

Mark Baird

Steven Benbow

Chris Charnley

Adam Cooper

Shane Croucher

Also in attendance

Mark Crowhurst – SU General Manager

Mike Neary – Dean of Teaching and Learning

Mike Saks – Senior Pro-Vice Chancellor

Chris Spendlove – University Registrar

Rebecca Rock (Officer)

Melanie Disher

David Martin

Cordelia McCartney

Fraser McFarland

Rob Wells

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Judith Carey – Director of Student Services

Sophia Heron (RAG Representative)

Stacie Ridley (Student Officer)

Dan Windross (VP Communications)

Beth Roberts (AU Societies Representative)

2 Motion “No Platform Policy”

Proposal that the Union take a “no platform” stance

Noted:

- Reminder that Freedom of Speech is protected under Law and by the University
- Reminder of the process for debating a motion :Proposer speaks for 2 minutes to outline the purpose of the motion, Student speaks for 2 minutes against the motion

Discussed:

Against the Motion

- soldiers fighting to protect and extend the rights of citizens in countries that do not have the right to freedom of speech.
- The BNP has a rightful place in British democracy and therefore should be allowed free speech
- Referendum recommended, on the grounds that the wider student body should be consulted.
- Officers represent all students, some students may be BNP affiliated, and the Union should work to represent these students as much as any other.
- The University rather than the Union should be the protectors against racism/facism
- There is a concern that if we make one group “undesirable” it paves the way for others to be labelled as undesirable
- A motion could cause the BNP's activity to be driven underground and make it more difficult to tackle their activities
- The organisation could continue to reform under new names and not therefore be covered
- Political debate is healthy and some students welcome the opportunity to engage in intellectual debate
- The University already has a policy not to allow external groups to book rooms, which would make this policy unnecessary.

For the Motion

- No platform means the Union would not attend or support BNP events nor allow events to take place on campus nor share a platform with a member of the BNP
- A policy allows Council to take a stance and specify exactly what position the Union should take in what situations; it is not a blanket ban, but a detailed outline.
- Sharing a platform may give the appearance of endorsement of the points of view of these extremists as legitimate, it may give an amount of credibility to what they are saying to even allow them the voice it.
- It is important to curtail the influence they may be able to exert on students to be involved in their party without full understanding of the implications.

Agreed:

- Resolutions to be taken and voted on in part
- Resolution 3. - passed as it stands
- Resolution 5 – amended to show “eligibility to attend”
- Resolution 5 - amended to remove “full”
- Resolution 5 - Amendments passed
- Resolutions 1-5 including amendments above passed by simple majority.
- Executive team will now outline a stance on “no platform” reflective of Council's debates and wishes within 5 days.
- The Executive team will prepare a full no platform policy within 21 days for e-circulation to Council

3 Motion “Age Discrimination”

Proposal to affiliate to the national “Citizen16” campaign

Noted:

- Minimum wage for 16 year olds is significantly below that of 22 year olds
- NUS is campaigning for an equal national minimum wage

Discussed:**Against the Motion**

- 16 year olds don't often have the same expenditure of 22 year olds.
- Concerns raised that the education and maturity of 16 year olds when it comes to voting.
- They aren't legally considered responsible enough to handle their drink, why should they then be considered responsible enough to vote.

For the Motion

- There are many people of all ages who aren't educated enough or mature enough to vote, this is not limited to 16 year olds.
- Maturity is not related to age.
- Companies who choose to employ 16 year olds do so to save money and as such this could be seen as exploitation.
- Some 16 year olds are financially self supporting.

Agreed

- Motion passed by simple majority

4 Vote of Thanks

Proposal that Nicole Christian be thanked for her support to Council and to students during her time working for the Students' Union.

Agreed:

- Unanimously passed

5 Council Development

Update on planning the promotion of and student involvement in Council in 3 sub-items. Item 1 - proposal for funding/support. Item 2 – Strategic plan. Item 3 – Associations motion

Item 1**Noted:**

- Amanda Davidson presenting.
- Acting Chair elected from among Council's number – Emily Gough (RAG)

Discussed:

- The value of promotional clothing in terms of visibility and impact
- Clothing should not be for the personal benefit of council members but to increase the visibility of council
- Students don't always know who their course rep is let alone councillor.

Agreed:

- Taken in parts
- Part 1 passed by simple majority
- Part 2 passed by simple majority
- Part 3 removed by simple majority

Item 2**Noted:**

- Council is the Policy making body of the Union
- Council exists to hold the Executive team to account for their actions on students' behalf and ensures students can make their opinions heard.

Discussed:

- Accesibility of council to students
- Use of jargon
- Reps group's recommendations to move to school reps and representation from outlying campuses' councils.

Agreed:

- Amended to show item 1 is as per reps group's recommendations
- To receive the paper

Item 3**Noted:**

- This paper on associations is in response to the motion originally tabled in February entitled "Diversity Group Representation".

Discussed:

- The idea in principle of linking Societies and Standing committees to allow groups of students of diversity orientated societies to have a voice on Council
- Some concern that this would not work as even with an active ACS the BME subcommittee is not running
- 4 members on a committee helps keep decision making accountable and 15 ensures it is representative.

Point of Information:

- Constitutional change would need Trustees' support
- Education Act may have implication on how we govern and fund our Societies

Agreed:

- In principle there should be a link between societies and standing committees, so that societies acting as social networks for diversity groups have an outlet for political activity.
- The creation of a category of Societies called Associations isn't a solution that council are happy with.
- By majority vote, that a working group reviews the proposals and other models and looks at student voice for minority groups. Membership will be President, Welfare Officer, Societies Officer 1 member of each diversity group and General Manager (advisor).

6 Student Open Session

Opportunity for students to raise any concerns they have for Council's consideration

Noted:

- A student raised concerns that lecturers and students are using poor English and nothing is in place to prevent this. The use of academic terminology is encouraged, but good spelling and grammar is neither expected nor encouraged.

Discussed:

- Other students were concerned that spelling and grammar should not be seen as a reflection of academic ability or intelligence, and that consideration should be given to those for whom English is not a first language and those with specific learning differences.

7 Officer Question Time**Noted:**

- No officer reports had been received, blogs were not accessible by students.

Agreed:

- The Communications officer should ensure blogs are accessible and send a portal message out to alert students that they are available.

8 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the 24th February were approved as a true record.

9 Matters Arising

No items were raised that had not already been covered.

10 Minutes of Council's Standing Committees

To receive updates from the standing committees of Council

Noted:

- Minutes were received from Sports and Societies Council and notes from the Entertainments Committee

Agreed:

- RAG committee minutes to include Council's officer in future circulation.

11* Budget and Accounts January 2009

The budget and accounts were received by the meeting

12 Any Other Business

An update on Carnage

Noted

- Following police and local bars discussion with Carnage, they have agreed that stewards will not drink and that the bars will not run promotions that would promote binge drinking. There will be additional street pastors on hand and a police presence.
- Council does not support any activity that promotes excessive drinking. Both the Union and University have taken a clear standpoint that they do not support the Carnage event.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Date of Next Meeting

Council will resume next academic year, with its newly elected membership. Current councillors and any interested students are encouraged to attend.

I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate summary of the meeting held on 22nd April 2009, and have been approved by Student Council. These minutes will now be publicly available.

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Name (Chair)

.....
Date