



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)

Pippa Cawthorne (HLSS Representative)

Gina Davies (Student Officer)

Gloria Dei (AAD Representative)

Dan Derricott (B&L Representative)

Emma Devine (Student Officer)

Laura Driscoll (MHT Representative)

Emily Gough (RAG Representative)

Steven Greaves (Student Officer)

Daniel Hutchinson (SU President)

James Mason (Student Officer)

Stacie Ridley (Student Officer)

Chris Roberts (VP Sports and Teams)

Carly Ann Smith (B&L Representative)

Matthew Thomas (AAD Representative)

Kayleigh Turner (VP Education)

Steve Turner (AU Sports Representative)

Dan Windross (VP Communications and Media)

Victoria Wiczerzynska (VP Welfare and Liaison)

Maria Yesufu (VP Societies and Activities)

Students' Union Members

Steven Benbow

Chris Charnley

Maxwell Flitton

Tom Haughton

Michelle leGrice

Ben Lincoln

Mhairi MacMillan

David Martin

Kayleigh Valentine

Pete Wilding

Also in attendance

Michelle Anderson – Head of Library and Learning Resources

Mark Crowhurst – SU General Manager

Ann Hollick – Head of Academic Administration Services

Rick Mosley – Community Beat Manager

Mike Neary – Dean of Teaching and Learning

Rebecca Rock (Officer)

Mike Saks – Senior Pro-Vice Chancellor

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Judith Carey – Director of Student Services

Sophia Heron (RAG Representative)

Beth Roberts (AU Societies Representative)

Chris Spendlove – University Registrar

2 Council Resignations

Update on elected Councilors.

Noted:

- Constitutionally, non-attendance at two meetings without prior apology is considered to indicate the resignation of the post.
- Non-attendees have been contacted to discuss this
- Substitutes have been arranged
- Carly Ann Smith and Gloria Dei were welcomed to the meeting.

Agreed:

- For the purposes of today's meeting it was proposed that all SU members, not just elected Council Members receive speaking and voting rights.

3 Police Update

An update from Rick Mosley on Racial attacks and Hate crime reporting

Noted:

- 72 reported incidents of hate crime last year
- Half a dozen of which related to students
- Hate crime is more likely to be informally rather than formally reported.
- Personal attack alarms are still available from the SU
- Saferstudents.com website is very helpful and the SU will be working with the police to produce a similar Lincoln related site.

Discussed:

- A student witnessed a serious attack, but not by or against students. The incident in question was reported and is in hand.
- Anonymous reporting, working with Student Services
- Publicity and visibility of Police on campus, ideas included posters, comments boxes and an Atrium stall

4 PALS

An update on PALS

An information item on the new Peer Assisted Learning Support team in the Library

Noted:

- A number of students have been employed as part of a Library project to get students supporting other students.
- PALS work part-time, offering support to library users as well as doing some routine shelving work.
- Students should feel confident to ask questions of the PALS related to library use, study skills and library materials.

5 Letter of Concern

A letter addressed to the officers of the Union raising concerns about Union outcomes for students. For discussion

Noted

- Main concerns relate to
 - Holding officers to account for what projects they give their time to and what outcomes are achieved for students
 - Union Events and campaigns, not well advertised and not put across to students as interesting, rarely see officers getting out there and getting stuck in with campaigns, posters often go up at very short notice
 - Council, not very accessible to ordinary students.

Discussed:

- Format of executive reports to council. Officers aren't sure what to include, the same reports are used for Executive committee meetings as Council.
- Questions would be welcome at council, officers aren't sure reports get read or are interesting to students.
- Use of Blogs, and how to let students know a blog has been updated – Blackboard, Portal, Web notification etc.

Agreed:

- Officers will use blogs to update students of their activities, questions about these will be welcome at Council or informally. (Action DW)
- Blogs will include what has been achieved for students, projects that are on the going and officers are spending time on, interesting highlights from meetings. Although they are informal they will be archived as a record for Council
- A summary report will still be used for Council, but the blog will be the main communication tool.
- Dan D to review the template for reports to Council to ensure they are relevant and interesting to students. (Action DD)

6 Delegation to NUS

For information

Noted:

- Delegation going to National conference at the end of March
- Last year's delegation had a free vote, this year council could consider setting a Lincoln vote.
- Motions document is complex and not accessible to students.
- President would welcome ideas from Council as to how to make it more accessible to students
- All officers offered to help interested students understand motions, especially those related to their field of portfolio (Action All Officers)

7 Diversity Groups Representation

Noted:

- Societies presidents of diversity groups currently field lots of enquiries related to the issues facing those groups.
- Some of these diversity groups are underrepresented in the University and at Student Council
- The existing constitution makes provision for sub-committees whose chairs would have a seat on Council
- Council are not able to pass, only to recommend, constitutional change
- Officer posts for 2009/10 have already been advertised, elections are already underway, substantial changes to those roles cannot be made at this point.

Discussed:

- Building of part-time officer portfolio's to include diversity groups within their area of interest.
- Mandating officers to make an issue a priority.
- A contingency plan is needed for when the sub-committees have not been established.

Agreed:

- A change is needed to make diversity group representation work for students.
- A resolution could not be reached without further discussion and wider input, all interested students to email the chair. (Action All)

8 Support for Students with Disabilities

This item was withdrawn from the agenda in the absence of its proposer.

9 Council Development

Promotion of Council, student involvement and proposal for improvement

Noted:

- More casual environment for Council
- Addition of Student Open Session to standing agenda
- Bullet to run a feature about Council

Discussed:

- Promotion of Council including possibility of a Council newsletter and regular Bullet updates, updating of website including photo's
- Training and support for members of council, production of a handbook.

Agreed:

- Development plan to be submitted to next meeting of Council (Action AD/DD/DH/KT)
- Members to email availability to Chair to find a mutually convenient time to hold Council

Discussed:

- Proposal for open voting rights, would be advantageous in getting students involved, but could cause difficulty if a number of students wanted to vote on an issue that wasn't representative of the opinion of all students, they could in effect hijack council.
- Possibility of encouraging students to use referenda.
- Encouraging students to speak at council, the power of free speech and with it the power of persuasion is more important than voting.
- Core representative attendance would still be needed, votes could be skewed towards the needs of one faculty or department.
- Possibility of students being co-opted to council, applying to the chair for voting rights prior to the meeting.

Agreed:

- Communications officer to research student and council opinion on applying for voting rights using web poll and/or SU survey

10 Student Open Session

Discussed:

- Students are confused by Council, it's function, the formality of its meetings and the SU constitution.
- Facebook is an effective tool for getting information out, but the problem is getting reps in the faculty to sign up. It is difficult for reps in a faculty to find out who the other reps in the faculty are.

Noted:

- A paper on the rep system is planned to go to Student Experience committee.

Agreed:

- Comments about reps and the system to be passed to the Reps group, sub-committee of council for consideration in the preparation of their paper.

11 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the 27th January were amended to record an additional apology.

Minutes of the meetings of Student Council 2nd December 2008 and 27th January 2009 were approved as a true record.

12 Matters Arising

No items were raised that had not already been covered.

13 Sabbatical Officers' Reports

To receive the reports of the activities of the Students' Union Sabbatical Officers.

Noted:

- Hull Raiser dates and venues still to be confirmed
- Discussion on format of Officers' reports in item 5

14* Budget and Accounts January 2009

The budget and accounts were received by the meeting

15 Any Other Business

15.1 Participation in Group Work

Noted:

- Different courses seem to take different approaches to marking group work.

Discussed:

- Some groups all students get the same mark regardless of input, some the group is given a mark to share according to how they perceive the members participated, some groups are penalised for their members' non-attendance or participation.

Agreed:

- KT to raise group work participation at an appropriate academic forum and feed back to Council

15.2 Entertainments Committee

Noted

- Meeting on Friday at 2pm, all welcome.

15.3 Issue with Course Exam

Noted:

- An individual issue relating to course exam process was raised, advice was to proceed via the usual route in discussion with the programme leader.
- KT offered support and was already aware of the situation.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Date of Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting had previously been set for Tuesday 31st March, but because of NUS national conference a large delegation from Council will be away. The meeting was rescheduled by the chair following the meeting to Wednesday 22nd April 4pm

I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate summary of the meeting held on 24th February 2009, and have been approved by Student Council. These minutes will now be publicly available.

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Name (Chair)

.....
Date