



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

Minutes of the meeting of the Student Council
Held at 2.00pm on Tuesday 2nd^t December 2008
Mezz Bar, Student Centre, Brayford Campus.

Present:

Chair

Amanda Davidson (HLSS Representative)

Members

Adam Macro (AAD Representative)
Amina Babirye (SU Student Officer)
Ben Jackson (AU Sports Representative)
Chris Roberts (VP Sports and Teams)
Dan Derricott (B&L Representative)
Dan Windross (VP Communications)
Daniel Hutchinson (SU President)
Emma Devine (SU Student Officer)
Emily Gough (RAG Committee Representative)
James Mason (SU Student Officer)
Josefin Oqvist (B&L Representative)
Kayleigh Turner (VP Education)
Maria Yesufu (VP Societies and Activities)
Matthew Thomas (AAD Representative)
Pippa Cawthorne (HLSS Representative)
Sophia Heron (MHT Representative)
Steven Greaves (SU Student Officer)
Victoria Wiczerzynska (VP Welfare and Liaison)

Representation and Academic Worker

Rebecca Rock (Officer)

Also in attendance

Ann Hollick – Head of Academic Administration Services
Brigitte Kabangue - Student
Chris Spendlove – University Registrar
David Anderson – Origami Society President
Gloria Dei – ACS President
Ian Marshall – Computing Services
Judith Carey – Director Student Services
Mark Baird - Student
Paul Stainthorp – e-resources Librarian GCW

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Alex Vann (AU Sports Representative)
Beth Roberts (AU Societies Representative)
Charlotte Walters (HLSS Representative)
Gina Davies (SU student Officer)

Laura Driscoll (MHT Representative)
Lisa Denholme (MHT Representative)
Michelle Anderson – Head of Library and Learning Resources
Mike Neary – Dean of Teaching and Learning
Steve Turner (AU Sports Representative)
Stacie Ridley (AU Societies Representative)

2 Opportunities for Student Reps

2.1 NUS Delegation

Noted:

- The Students' Union has places for 7 delegates to attend NUS conferences.
- 3 delegates were elected during the by-elections a further 4 are available.

Agreed:

- Names of those interested should be sent to Daniel Hutchinson.

2.2 Elections Committee

Noted:

- The committee exists to oversee the elements of the running of the Students' Union elections, in support of the returning officer.
- 2 places are available

Agreed:

- Names of those interested should be sent to Daniel Hutchinson.

2.3 Installation of the new Chancellor

Noted:

- Student Council members have been invited to attend the ceremony for the installation of the new University Chancellor which will take place on Friday 12th December.
- Further details are available from Daniel Hutchinson

2.4 Gender Equality Scheme and Disability Equality Scheme

Noted:

- 2 student places are available on each University committee, from those interested in Gender or Disability equality.
- Further information is available from Vicky Wieczorzynska

2.5 Student Experience Committee

Noted:

- 2 Student places are available on the university's student experience committee.
- Further information is available from Rebecca Rock

3 Reps Group Update

An update of the progress of the Reps Group formed at the previous meeting of student Council.

Noted:

- Minutes of the meeting of, the proposed terms of reference for, and a copy of the paper produced by the group were circulated in advance.
- The group requested that Council allow them to form as a permanent standing committee of Student Council.
- Academic Board are the only body who have the power to make regulations

Discussed:

- The group's aim is that the recommendations are put into practice across the University and are enforced rather than just guidelines, but recognises the process involved and that adding to the regulations would only be one possible way of achieving this.

Agreed

- The terms of reference were agreed by vote.

- Subject to the inclusion of appropriate staff from registry and two willing academic staff, it was agreed by vote that the group form as a Standing Committee of Council.
- That the recommendations continue through a comprehensive drafting process and, in the fullness of time, be presented through the due process to appropriate University committees, with regular updates presented to Council.
- Daniel Hutchinson and Kayleigh Turner will support the group.

4 Art Shop *Student Item*

Given the length of the agenda, and the ongoing research around this item, the presenter has agreed to defer this item to the January meeting.

5 EGM Proposal

To consider and vote on a paper produced regarding student participation in the recent AGM.

Noted

- The recent AGM did not reach quorum at it's first or it's rescheduled meetings.
- Students seem unaware of how they can be represented and how change can be made through AGM, EGM and Council.
- Without a full executive team commitment this is unlikely to change.

Discussed:

- Proposal is to form a working group to promote an ~Extraordinary General Meeting to encourage student engagement.
- The executive team will need to pull together to work on this, it is key to the Union and what a Union is and therefore a priority.
- Additional work needed to cover FE, and campuses.
- Concerns over timing and the spreading thin of Union resources. Council have the power to mandate the Union to make this a priority and if they do so other activities would be re-prioritised.
- Formation of a working group to work through the details and concerns and find the best way to organise this.

Agreed

- Council agreed by majority vote that a working group be formed and this project go ahead.
- That Daniel Hutchinson will work with Dan Derricott to find an appropriate time for the campaign and subsequent event.
- All officers will support the campaign and event
- The working group will report back to the next meeting of Student Council.

6 24 Hour Library Committee Motion

(Paper 5.1)

Noted

- 24/4 opening period as a result of Sparkhouse construction work.
- Majority of Council members were aware of the extended opening hours, advertised by posters, emails and portal updates.
- Feedback from Council members who had used the library after midnight was positive, noting that it seemed well used until around 2am and the extending opening was appreciated at this time with approaching deadlines.
- Several officers' manifesto's included a commitment to a 24 hour library.
- Kayleigh Turner has been working with Michelle Anderson to monitor and promote usage and discuss opening hours.

Discussed

- A group would like to form to continue to keep the Library opening hours a priority discussion item. Reviewing the data from the trial and potentially, based on this information, campaigning for a permanent change in opening hours.
- The advantages and disadvantages of longer opening hours, including cost, staffing, security etc.

Agreed

- Council agreed by majority vote that the group should form and report back to Council on library usage and strength of student feeling on the issue before considering any further action.
- It was agreed that the group should meet with Michelle Anderson.

7 Student Council Standing Committees

7.1 The ACS' Proposal (Paper 6)

Noted:

- The ACS were put in a difficult position, and their reputation with other ACS groups around the region was at risk as a result of this miscommunication.
- Their relationship with the Union and in particular with the President had been damaged.

Discussed:

- The need for Standing Committees as channels of communication about important issues effecting diverse student groups.
- The need for Standing Committees in representing the voice of diverse student groups to Council.

Agreed:

- A verbal apology was received from Daniel Hutchinson, with a commitment to devote time to building relationships with the ACS and other Societies and Committees representing diversity groups.

7.2 Executive Committee Paper

Noted:

- Sub-Committees have still not been formed and are unlikely to be running now until Semester B
- The model is that Sub-Committees continue from one year to the next but because of the limited participation in them last year, they will need to form anew this year.
- KT is taking a lead on Ents Committee and has some names for interest and will be holding a focus group.

Discussed:

- Sub-committees are open to all students not just reps and membership should be as wide as possible.
- Lack of clear strategy for groups to ensure continuity of committees from one year to the next.
- Executive committee's responsibility to implement the constitution - committees are constituted in the Union's governing documents. Not necessary to discuss at Council, should have been discussed and implemented by Executive committee. Council commended for pursuing the issue.

Agreed:

- Council agreed by majority vote that the Executive Committee plan and execute a strategy to establish these committees under the President's lead.
- Council will promote these opportunities to other reps and students within their faculties.

8 ATAW Briefing

Information about a feasibility study by ICT services and opportunities for students to become involved (paper 8).

Noted

- The information in paper 8 is an excerpt from a bigger proposal.
- ATAW relates to wireless provision and future information access for students and staff.
- Currently access off campus is only via the internet and does not give access to the H:drive or printing.
- Students and staff are using laptops, netbooks and small handheld devices more and more, not necessarily University equipment.
- Council are asked to help in sourcing a student group of up to 10.

Discussed

- A working group representing interested parties from the University, Union, Library and Learning Resources team, Academic staff team and Student body will be formed. Student representation on this is needed.
- Research currently underway, visiting other Universities, analysing user requirements and preparing papers.
- Need to include DART registered students when considering user needs.

Agreed

- RR will email the opportunity to reps
- Student Councillors to publicise this and other opportunities
- Judith Carey and Ian will meet to discuss including DART registered students.

9 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the University of Lincoln, Students' Union Student Council held on 21st October 2008 were approved by the meeting.

10 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising on which to report, excepting those which have already been covered by the substantive items of business.

11. Minutes of the Standing Committees of Council

This starred item had not been unstarred prior to the meeting, there being no questions the meeting received the minutes of the following standing committees of Council

- Reps Group
- Societies Council
- Sports Council
- RAG Committee

12 Sabbatical Officers' Reports

This starred item had not been unstarred prior to the meeting, the meeting however voted to unstar the item and pose questions.

Noted:

- Part- Time Executive officers have not previously produced a report to council.
- The Education Officers' report was circulated later as it was received later.

Agreed:

- Part-Time Executive Officers will in future submit a report to Council the format for which will be agreed at the next executive committee meeting.

13 Budget and Accounts for Month Ending 31st August 2008

The financial reports were received by the meeting; members are always welcome to ask questions at any time by dropping into the Soap Centre.

14 Any Other Business

14.1 NSS

Noted:

- Survey is for all final year students
- Survey opens in January
- Results are used by the University to plan improvements and the Union to identify areas for further research and campaigning
- Joint campaign by the University and Union to promote student participation in the survey

Agreed:

- Council Members will promote participation in the survey
- A fuller agenda item will be given to the NSS at the next meeting.

14.2 By-Elections

Noted

- Good participation, although, as expected, smaller turnout than main Elections.
- Welcome to new Part-time executive officers.
- 3 of the delegation to NUS conferences were elected.
- One nomination was received for a post that wasn't constituted as a result of a misunderstanding of the election information.

14.3 Part-Time Officer Roles

Noted

- No specific role is constituted with a remit for black students.
- Other Unions elect part-time officers with specific portfolios.
- Part-time officers can build their own portfolios.

Discussed

- Currently students with an interest in diversity groups are invited to appropriate and relevant NUS conferences to represent those groups on behalf of ULSU
- Whether specific roles for part-time officers are needed and would generate interest from candidates.

14.4 Part-Time Officer Name

Noted

- Part-Time Officers feel that the name gives a negative impression of their role
- Part-Time Officers propose that their title be changed to Student Officer

Discussed

- Title is set down in constitution and requires due process to change it, but they can be known as "Student Officers" in practice with a policy change to follow.

Agreed

- Student Officers to produce a paper for discussion at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Date of Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting is agreed as 20th January 2009 at 2pm.

I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate summary of the meeting held on 21st October 2008, and have been approved by Student Council. These minutes will now be publicly available.

.....
Name (Chair)

.....
Date

Approved