

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON STUDENTS' UNION**  
**STUDENT COUNCIL**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020

18:00 Morley Room

- PRESENT:** Gemma Lovegrove (President); Katy Baker (VP Welfare); Ryan Bradshaw (VP UD); Tom Weaver (Sports Officer); Anthony Stepniak (PGR Officer); Catriona Doyle (Disabled Students' Officer); Sami Khan (International Students' Officer); Jack Farnell (Sp Chair); Ratri Mauricio (Sp); Charlie Hughes (Sp); Danielle Ward (Sp); Otomiewo Tegorgor (Soc Chair); Claudia Gyngell (Soc); Beth Garrett (Ed Chair); Louise Dowson (Ed); Beverley Jane Adams (Ed); Tamara Holt (Ed); Nurcellari (Changemaker); Linnall Emanuel Ayre (BME PTO) Katie Johnson (Soc).
- APOLOGIES:** Paul Dinsmore (LGBT Officer); Steph Chaudri (Sp); Chikaelo Ada Ukamaka (Ed); Lilian Grace Koroma (Ed); Emily Taylor-Kaneen (Ed); Ektaa Vadgam (Ed); Janea Bernabe (Societies Officer); Tre Ventour (VP BME); Azim Miah (Ed) Marika Johnson (Soc);
- ABSENT:** Cameron Simpson (Sp); Danielle Ward (Sp); Sam Dorywala (Ed); Nicole Mashonganyika (Soc).
- MINUTES:** Beth Garrett

1. Apologies: 8 apologies with 3 mitigating circumstances.  
15 accepted, 3 rejected.
2. Declarations of interest: none.
3. Minutes: taken as read.  
18 accepted (unanimous).
4. Issues from minutes not elsewhere on the agenda: none.
5. Statement from Trustees: Sabbatical Officers, staff and observers asked to leave the room. The discussion that followed remains confidential.
6. Motions
  - Bye-law amendments: proposed bye-law amendments on Officer role descriptions.

This amendment follows the approval of a reduction of the Sabbatical team from five full-time Officers to three full-time Officers and one part-time Officer. The new approach is to launch a working group to work on bye-law amendments. GL, KB, RB, AS and TH nominate themselves for this working group.

16 accepted (unanimous).

A potential issue is highlighted with the timings of the working group, role description approval and election dates. The suggestion is to move the election dates to allow for job description amendments. Chair will find out more information regarding how to move forward – perhaps holding an interim council to vote through changes could be a solution.

**7. Reports**

- Trustees report: Taken as read and discussed in the AGM. GL provided a summary of the report. Key areas include Engine Shed lease, Heritage funding, staff restructure, new Students' Union Management system to increase student engagement, good award for green impact, Student Life Pulse Survey.

15 accepted, 1 abstained.

- Finance report: Taken as discussed from the AGM. Proposal to postpone due to lack of report. 16 accepted (unanimous).
- President (GL): Summarises her work on sustainability and impact for the Students' Union. This has been taken to Trustees – GL is working hard to ensure a sustainable future for the SU. GL has also held drop-ins at the Learning Hub stand and helped to organise the Row Britannia charity event to raise money for Sports Relief. 16 accepted (unanimous).
- Vice President Union Development (RB): Has been helping to organise Societies Awards which will be held at Platform (cost effective). RB is currently looking for ways to engage international students through international events at Platform. RB has also help drop-ins in the Learning Hub which help to increase student engagement. RB has had meetings about Varsity in preparation for the first home varsity. Has offered Mental Health First Aid training to committee members. Looking for feedback on what events students would like to see. Supported LGBTQ events and promoted rainbow laces. Futsal are being included in Varsity – this has been a popular demand since the club's ratification this year. Working with Dance to find ways to help make the club sustainable by providing training facilities on campus. There is some Discussion about Societies Awards, following some concerns from JV, and RB ensures this will go ahead. 16 accepted (unanimous).
- Vice President Education (CV): Has resigned from his position with immediate effect. GL reads an official statement which will be shared on the SU's social media. The position will remain vacant until the new VP Education takes up their role.
- Vice President Welfare (KB): Has continued to signpost students to mental health services, looking at trends in Emergency Hardship Funds and who are using them – a large number are mature students. KB is involved in housing events with the council. Has invited people from the hospital and charities to come and talk to students and inform them of issues. 16 accepted (unanimous).
- Vice President BME (TV): Not in attendance. TV has held in-class discussions with small cohorts. TV has been in touch with the Book Society and intends to collaborate with them to promote diverse literature. TV has also been supporting students with dissertation. 8 accepted, 8 rejected.
- Sports Officer (TW): Working with Bedford University on Varsity and creating a timetable for the event. Has continued to promote sports teams, including fixtures and events, on social media. Using rainbow logo to promote LGBTQ history month. Collaboration with LGBTQ through rainbow laces and promotion on social media. Working on the This Girl Can campaign for March and working on marketing materials which can be shared during this period. 16 accepted (unanimous).
- Societies Officer (JB): Not in attendance, taken as read. Questions directed to JB. 7 accepted, 4 abstained, 5 rejected.
- BME Officer (LE): Not in attendance, take as read. Questions directed to LE. 7 accepted, 5 abstained, 4 rejected.

- Disabled Officer (CD): Has been liaising with alumni to organise talks about Autism and experiences of Autistic students. Met with University Mental Health First Aid team to inquire about training.  
16 accepted (unanimous).
- International Students Officer (SU): Has continued helping international students to find accommodation. Liaised with international societies and promoted the SU to international students and informing students of what the SU can do for them.  
16 accepted (unanimous).
- LBGT Officer (PD): Not in attendance and no report submitted. Sent apologies due to illness. Working on organising events during LGBT history month.
- Changemaker Officer (KN): Organising workshops and working with a team to increase volunteering opportunities.  
14 accepted, 2 abstained.
- PGR Officer (AS): Attended this years' Changemaker Awards at which the inaugural award for Changemaker PGR/ECR Researchers of the Year was given. AS has continued work on funding for VP PGR role, and supported the process of shaping the role description. AS will be promoting PRES which is upcoming in March, following last year's successful results.  
16 accepted (unanimous).

#### 8. Committee meetings

- Societies Committee: Update on Societies Varsity which has been cancelled this year due to lack of interest. Clubs have expressed interest in Societies stash (like sports teams). Approval of book society and ratification of English Language and Creative Writing, and Future Leaders.  
16 accepted (unanimous).
- Athletics Union: A big focus within sports is the upcoming home Varsity. There was also discussion around LGBT+ and sports, with clubs being encouraged to wear rainbow laces and changes to SU's sports social media to support LGBT history month. There has also been preparations for 'This Girl Can' campaign and a quick update on Sports Awards.  
16 accepted (unanimous).
- Education Committee: In light of the information regarding CV's resignation, an unofficial Education Committee meeting was held. Key information was passed on regarding upcoming elections and STaR Awards. Advocates expressed some concerns about exam timetables/locations, Market prices, and student attendance.  
16 accepted (unanimous).

#### 9. Issues arising from committee minutes

- Ratification of Education society – not quorate so will be taken back to Societies Committee.

#### 10. Any other business

- AS highlighted an issue with communication: a lack of clear, transparent communication has caused confusion recently, particularly with the changes to Student Council and committee dates. This is something which hopefully, after being brought to attention, will amend itself.

#### 11. Date of next meeting: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020.