

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

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020

18:00 Morley Room

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

1. Apologies: AM (Education) 3 accept, 2 abstain, 16 reject.
2. Procedural motion to move dates for Elections to point 4: 20 accept, 1 reject.
3. Declarations of interest: none.
4. Minutes: 20 accept and 1 abstain.
5. Dates and roles for elections 2020: GL gives election dates. Nominations open 9am on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, open until 16<sup>th</sup> February. Voting opens 3<sup>rd</sup> March, finishes 5<sup>th</sup> March (9-5pm each day). Results on 9<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm.
6. Next student council on 13<sup>th</sup> February – changed due to Sabbatical Officer's commitment to Trustees.  
LD says new dates for committee meetings will be sent out and to contact chairs for more information.
7. Issues from minutes not elsewhere on the agenda: None
8. Motions
  - Bye-law amendments: Officer Byelaw Amendment: Proposed change of structuring from 5 Sabbatical Officers to 3 full time and 1 part time Sabbatical Officer. This is in line with suggestions from reports comparing Sabbatical teams in other Universities. Roles would be redefined to ensure they are less like the coordinator members of staff and more focused on representation. These changes should enable the Students' Union to continue doing what they do well but even better, and in a more focused way.  
The proposed roles are: President, Vice President Education, Vice President Welfare and Activities, with a part time Vice President Postgraduate Research.  
PD questions the impact of removing the VP BME role - how this will both look to students and how it will still be ensured that these students will be represented. GL asserts that the responsibility and role of the VP BME can be covered by other Sabbatical Officers; BME students can be represented in regards to Education matters, but the VP Education, on welfare and activity related issues by the VP Welfare and Activities.

PD points out the large percentage of BME students at the University and the poor correlation with their engagement with the SU. How will the removal of VP BME affect this? GL presents a 'quality over quantity' approach. It will be the responsibility of the smaller Sabbatical team to work effectively together to ensure that there are no gaps and demographics of students that are excluded. The Students' Union should and will represent all students.

24 accept (unanimous).

- Committee Bye-Law Amendment: RB reminds Council of the point that was mentioned in AOB of the previous Council – proposal to reduce the number of members required by societies from 15 to 10.  
24 accepted (unanimous).
- 9. Officer Role Descriptions: CV presents the need to update the Sabbatical Officer Role Descriptions, particularly as President, VP Union Development and VP Education have not been changed in the last 3 years. This will also be affected by the change of structure in the Sabbatical team.
- 10. Reports
  - No Trustee or Finance reports due to no additional meetings since last Council.
  - President (GL): Has spent a lot of time ensuring the Students' Union is sustainable and set up for the next year. Arranging a Row Britannia for Sports Relief – raising money through a sponsored rowing event. Continuing to support students in disciplinaries.  
24 accepted (unanimous).
  - Vice President Union Development (RB): Working on 'Reunion Day' to engage new students and put on events which should accommodate placement students. Planning and preparation for Varsity which will be based on Waterside campus. Organising Sports Awards. Working with CV to provide a platform for students to advertise and develop their skills (e.g. photography, videography), which can be used by groups, for the mutual benefit of both parties.  
23 accept (1 temporary left).
  - Vice President Education (CV): Has been supporting students with lots of smaller issues rather than the 'big' issues. Worked with CS to organise STaR Awards. Organised IT forums and has chased up the issue of inconsistent WiFi, which will be improved by new boosters.  
24 accept (unanimous).
  - Vice President Welfare (KB): GL reading on behalf of KB. Has been working heavily with students on mental health related issues. There has been an increase in mental health issues and incidents since New Year; has been identifying trends in data and working with Residential life to target these. Organised Togetherness Tuesday welfare events and liaising with students to find out what events they would like to have. Working on organising a food bank and linking this with a Foundation module (based on food wastage).  
24 accept (unanimous).
  - Vice President Black and Minority Ethnic (TV): Not in attendance, did not submit a report and did not send apologies.
  - Sports PTO (TW): Large part in the planning of a home Varsity. Working with RB and BD on planning for Sports Awards.  
23 accept (unanimous).
  - Societies PTO: Not in attendance, report taken as read.  
18 accept, 5 abstain.
  - BME PTO: Not in attendance, report taken as read.

21 accept, 1 abstain, 1 no.

- Disabled Students' PTO: No report due to last minute change of council date. Seeking support in role from Sabbatical Officers.
- International Students' PTO: Report submitted late. Working on marketing opportunities to engage international students, and with RB to set up events for international students. Informing international students

22 accept, 1 abstain.

- LGBT PTO (PD): Organising events for LGBT month, ensuring there is one event a day including day events, social evening events. Working in partnership with each Faculty, looking at LGBT issues in areas such as criminology, sociology etc. Has secured LGBT halls for the new academic year. Organising sessions with international students to educate them on LGBT and its place in British culture – if contrasting their own culture.

23 accept (unanimous).

- Changemaker PTO (KN): Not in attendance, report taken as read.

23 accept (unanimous).

- PGR PTO (AS): Working on Changemaker PGR/ECR Researcher of the Year Award and promoting Research Diamond Awards. Continued contributing to the development of the part-time VP PGR role which will now go to Trustees. Finished production of PRG video series.

#### 11. Committee meetings

- Athletics Union:

Recap of minutes from November: established Futsal group, elected new AU councillor. Proposed summer ball for the end of the year.

23 accept.

Minutes from January: Confirmation of Sports Awards, including venue. Update on Varsity and timetabling for the venue. BD has held development meetings with clubs to support them. Spoke about elections, including main Students' Union elections and club committee elections.

23 accept.

- Societies Committee: minutes to be presented at next Council.
  - Education Committee: Introduced new Education Committee members who have been nominated in the recent bye-elections, updated them on the issues we have been working on this year. Highlighted key concerns from reports, including lack of communication between staff and students, and how to address this. CV gave updates on SU Elections and STaR awards.
- 23 accept (unanimous).

12. Issues arising from committee minutes: None

13. Any other business: None

14. Date of next meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 6-8pm, Morley Room.