

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON STUDENTS' UNION
STUDENT COUNCIL

Thursday 14th November 2019

18:00 Morley Room

PRESENT: Gemma Lovegrove (President); Ryan Bradshaw (VPUD); Katy Baker (VP Welfare); Cameron Vanloo (VP Education); Tre Ventour (VP BME); Thomas Weaver (Sports Officer); Anthony Stepniak (PGR Officer); Catriona Doyle (Disabled Students Officer); Paul Dinsmore (LGBTQ Officer); Otomiewo Tegorgor (Soc Chair); Mathew Stanton (Soc Deputy Chair); Beth Garrett (Ed Chair); Louise Dowson (Ed); Danielle Ward (AU); Ratri Mauricio (AU); Charlie Hughes (AU); Jack Farnell (AU Chair);

APOLOGIES: Stephania Chaudhri (AU); D'Arcey Arrowsmith (AU); Claudia Gyngell (Soc); Sam Dorywala (Ed); Janea Bernabe (Societies Officer)

ABSENT: Sami Ullah (International Students Officer); Linnall Emanuel Ayre (BME Officer); Katerina Nurcelli (Changemaker Officer); Usama Anwar (Ed); Mave Brindley (Soc); Anchal Gautam (Soc); Simisola Oladapo (Soc);

MINUTES: Lucinda Maiden (Democracy Coordinator)

1. Apologies
2. Declaration of conflicts of interest
 - None

Procedural Motion – move to discussion point.

3. Discussion Point

- **VP PGR and PGR student representation**
- Important to amalgamate
- Increasing number of Level 8 Students – entire cohort not represented
- PRES ranking 2nd
- PTO workload: AS always puts in more hours than is expected. Concerned that the initiatives AS has brought in will not be continued. Worries that the role is unsustainable. VP PGR will help to ensure PGR representation
- would benefit the union and its representation of students
- **CV** – VP PGR and new PGR faculty advocates will sit on education committee.
- CV - PGR students have a right to representation
- **PD** – potential conflict of interest with university staff
- **AS** – Level 8 students are not part of the staff body or the student body. It is unlikely that a PGR student who is in a relatively high-level staff position will run for the role. It has been an issue for other institutions, but it is likely that
- **Observer** – question –
- **CV** – PGR would also help to facilitate PGT students. Funding will be secured from VC for five years. CV admits that he would not be able to do the amount of work that AS does.
- **Observer** – would VP PGR sit on board of trustees? CV – still up for discussion. AS – part-time element needs to be considered. 16-20 hours. 20 hours to allow for international students to take the role and to accommodate studying for a PhD.
- **CV** – trying to make sure education committee represents level 3 – 8.

4. Any other businesses.

- **CD** – where to promote work experience/job opportunity for disabled students
- Long term – student opportunity page. Short-term – get it out on union social media.

5. Current work of sabs

- Gemma
 - Student survey to gather more details
- Ryan
 - Sports dome is not fit for purpose
 - Push for new sports hall and new pitch – Astroturf to facilitate hockey and football.
 - CV – not going to accept any more halls until this is in place
 - GL – Uni have recently. Statement – this is not good enough- need to resolve it.
- CV
 - Open talk about IT issues. Need as many people as possible to prove a point. Frustrated about being ignored every time the issue is raised.
- KB
 - LGBTQ+ dedicated halls
 - Rise in number of hate crimes reported. Saver for students.
- CV – going to push the university as much as possible on issues. Need prove that the officers are listening to the student body.
- PD – encourage students to file formal complaints in. students are paying for their university experience, go down the consumer route. University has a formal complaint procedure.
- TV
 - 25 BHM events
 - Doesn't endorse HM – should be integrated throughout the year
 - 400 people involved – mainly students and lecturers – members of the public
 - Attainment gap.

GL – thank those in attendance. Need to look into non-attendance and if roles are being filled.

Next meeting – 5th Dec