

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON STUDENTS' UNION

MEETING OF THE STUDENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday 29th September 2020

- PRESENT:** Samilullah (SK) President (Chair),
Yeqi Zhou (YZ) VP-Education
Yuanning Jiang (YJ) VP-Welfare and Activities
Ahmed Basil (AB) VP-Post Graduate Research
Kirstie Pope (KP) Disabled Students Officer
Genine Taylor (GT) Mature Students Officer
LLnall Emanuael (LM) Changemaker Officer
Anthony Stepniak (ASt) Post Graduate Research Officer
Erin Laste (EL) Womens Officer
- MINUTES:** K Macintyre (KM)
- APOLOGIES:** Hollie Hargrave (HH) LGBTQ Students Officer, Tamara Holt (TH) Societies Officer
- ABSENT:** Hugo Hegner (HH) EU Students Officer, Arooj Shahbaz (AS) International Students Officer,
Ratri Mauricio (RM) Sports Officer
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01/20 Welcome and Apologies

President welcomed everybody. Apologies and absences noted as above.

REGULAR BUSINESS

02/20 Verbal Updates from Officers

President

- Attended University Board of Governors and HE meetings
- Got involved in preparations for Freshers
- Got involved in Freshers, was on campus every days and help some drop-in sessions
- Have been accepted as a Director of the Northampton Students Union Services limited – the commercial arm of the SU
- Attended latest Board of Trustee meetings
- Had various meetings with SU Staff and University meetings
- Have been working on SU videos
- Did an interview with ITV on the Covid Situation and Freshers.
- Am working on a Campaign for Change as part of the Students Union's forthcoming Big Plans. The theme is based on Bias and its Types and am working closely with the SU Marketing Co-Ordinator for social media exposure
- Working on a Mobile App for the SU to bring a proposal to the Board of Trustees but will bring it to this Committee next month.

Vice President Education

- Also attended University Board of Governors and HE meetings and Finance
- Was present at Freshers Week, held drop in sessions.
- Have been doing Lecture Shout-Outs for the SU this week particularly with reference to Course and Faculty Advocates and Societies membership

- Working with the Advocacy Co-Ordinator to set up the system for the year and working as a team
- Have been producing videos with the Marketing co-Ordinator on what the Advocacy programme is all about and they will go out on social media soon.
- Have been listening to students regarding issues with wifi connectivity, NILE logins and timetables. Trying to help resolve the issues with IT but will also be making plans to ask students about the student experience so we can find solutions to help make this better.

It was noted that there are issues with students using the Microsoft Edge browser which doesn't work with Collaborate so if people mention issues, please ask them to download Firefox and/or Chrome which should solve some of the problems.

Vice President Post Graduate Research

- Attended Freshers Week and did some drop-in sessions for researchers
- Have spent time in the PGR space listening to researchers issues in the space and following up access needs
- Had several meetings with the other Sabbatical Officers and CEO
- Had a number of meetings regarding the SU mobile app and looking at what can be mirrored from the SU website
- Am doing a number of Lecture Shout Outs
- Am attending a Board of Directors meeting this week
- Will be assisting with the 2020/21 Induction sessions for the new researchers joining in October.

Vice President Welfare and Activities

- Working on IT issues regarding logins to Societies pages
- Working on planning for Mental Health Day on 15th October with the focus on doing events online
- Having been working on social media material to do with Mental Health
- Have held sessions for Chinese students who are having issues with NILE
- Have been doing Lecture Shout Outs and working on a mental health survey.

There was a question regarding Mental Health First Aid training provided by the Students' Union in previous years and some of the PTO's expressed an interest in doing this again. VP Welfare to make enquiries at the Students' Union to see if this can be provided again.

Mature Students' Officer

- Trying to make herself known to students and in the process of trying to set up a Society so there is somewhere for like-minded students to join up.
- Held drop-in session during Freshers but towards the end of the week and so attendance was poor.
- Some students don't have access to Facebook so other ways of communicating are being sought.
- Many students, not only mature students are making contact regarding issues with timetables, people not turning up etc. and lots of interaction taking place.
- Am working on setting up an outing or gathering this Friday and communications will go out as to who I am and where, when and how to find me.

Womens' Officer

- Over the summer have been chatting with people in relation to womens issues
- Have created an anonymous contact form so people are able to get in touch in confidence
- Having been working on how to deal with sexism and harassment
- Having a meeting set up soon with a previous Womens' Officer
- Have spoken with the SU Marketing Co-Ordinator to get some help with setting up networks and I have a few ideas for that
- Have been on campus and spread some material out on the Cop-A-Feel Campaign with contact details and a reminder for people to regularly check themselves
- Will let people know the SU has female products in the WC's if they need emergency supplies

- There is a Period Poverty campaign in the pipeline

Postgraduate Research Officer

- Have been supporting the VP Postgraduate Research as he has been on campus dealing with the move of the PGR space from 1st Floor to 4th Floor in the Senate.
- Have been liaising with University to establish safe social distancing in the PGR space
- Liaising with IT to get the technology on the PGR space properly installed
- Have been working with the University to establish safe guidelines for comfortable working in the PGR space.
- Have been trying to obtain some funding from Enterprise, that used to be provided by the Deanery for Researchers to bid for money to help recover.

Disabled Students' Officer

- Have had a busy start to the term with lots of enquiries regarding exceptions to the facemask rules and other impairments and hidden disabilities
- Have had about 150 emails to deal with from the Disabled Student Officer email box
- The University has also emailed resulting in invitations to attend some University meetings where face coverings have been discussed as well as the near-completion of the Sensory Room which was proposed some time ago but originally rejected due to not being put forward to a member of staff.
- Have been working towards getting some Sunflower Lanyards with Face Covering Exempt and Hidden Disability cards and these will be ordered shortly.
- Am also working towards getting some Lift Priority Cards for students who may struggle physically or have hidden disabilities with using the stairs
- Am looking into Sign Language classes
- Considering how to do monthly key awareness days

Changemaker Officer

- Has been working over the summer to improve the student ambassador programme to try and get more student involved in Changemaker
- The Changemaker web pages are now receiving more hits as activities are mostly online but as mentioned before, there are still issues with the website and the log-on facility
- There have been some concerns raised with the Employability Plus programme and the required number of working hours. However, there are plans being considered that move to online webinars instead for training etc.
- Completed an application to bid for the British Inter-University Awareness competition but missed the deadline
- Signposting to other avenues for free training opportunities and creating promotions for those.

03/20 Officer Plans for the Coming Month

The President explained that he and the other Sabbatical Officers are answerable to the Student Executive, Student Council and the student body as a whole. He requested that Members feel free to approach the Sabbatical Team for help with issues, campaigns, things they might need to help achieve their objectives over the next few months.

As this was the first meeting, Members were asked to think about and will be expected to come to the next meeting with one objective they are planning to complete during the following month towards achieving their manifest points.

04/20 Update on Budget and Expenditure

It was explained that this will be the way that Members will be able to see how the Student Executive Budget is being spent and an update will be given at each meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

05/20 Review of Fund Release Forms

It was noted that two templates had been sent out with the papers for this meeting. The General Fund and Conference Fund Release Form is to be used by Members wishing to request funds from the Committee achieving their objectives.

The second document relates to requesting funds to be released for holding events. Each form has different requirements.

Sunflower Lanyard Fund Request – Disabled Students' Officer

Members had already approved this request electronically and the paper was brought as a formality. Members agreed to release funds in the sum of £144.

PTO Uniform Request - President

Members agreed unanimously to provide funds in the sum of £275 for the purchase of grey hoodies for each of the current PTO's. Members to send the Governance Administrator their sizes, names and Committee positions so these items can be ordered in due course.

06/20 Terms of Reference Review

Members approved unanimously the proposed the draft Terms of Reference with an additional point that states that apologies for no- attendance to this Committee must be received a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the meeting with exceptional circumstances being accepted at the Chairs discretion.

07/20 Any Other Business

Black History Month

The President asked if anyone has any ideas for events and activities to do with Black History Month, for them to contact him directly.

Changemaker Officer confirmed that the University was seeking input from the Students' Union and any ideas can be forward to Changemaker Officer as well.

Mature Students Officer mentioned she had also seen something on FB about three people doing a webinar for BHM and she would attempt to find the clip and forward it on.

There was also a suggestion that addresses for local black business be published for Black Pound Day.

08/20 Date of Next Meeting: 27 October 2020

END.