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

Thursday 12th March 2020

18:00 Engine Shed

**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); Charlie Hughes (Sp); Danielle Ward (Sp); Beth Garrett (Ed Chair); Louise Dowson (Ed); Beverley Jane Adams (Ed); Tamara Holt (Ed); Chikaelo Ada Ukamaka (Ed); Sam Dorywala (Ed);

**APOLOGIES:**

**ABSENT:** Paul Dinsmore (LGBT Officer); Cameron Simpson (Sp); Danielle Ward (Sp); Steph Chaudri (Sp); Lilian Grace Koroma (Ed); Emily Taylor-Kaneen (Ed); Ektaa Vadgam (Ed); Janea Bernabe (Societies Officer); Tre Ventour (VP BME); Sami Khan (International Students’ Officer); Jack Farnell (Sp Chair); Ratri Mauricio (Sp); Otomiewo Tegorgor (Soc Chair); Claudia Gyngell (Soc); Katerina Nurcellari (Changemaker); Llnnall Emanuel Ayre (BME PTO).

**Not sure about Socs:** Katie Johnson (Soc); Marika Johnson (Soc); Nicole Mashonganyika (Soc) – two of them were there but I don’t know which is which. I think Louise may have taken a register.

**Also need to check which of the absentees sent apologies. I do not have this information.**

**MINUTES:** Beth Garrett

1. Apologies:

Socs Chair: 8 accepted, 4 abstain, 6 rejected.

LGBT Officer: 1 accepted, 17 rejected.

1. Declarations of interest: none.
2. Minutes: delayed until next meeting due to lack of minutes.

18 accepted (unanimous).

1. Issues from minutes not elsewhere on the agenda: none.
2. Motions

Initial Proposals:

Accountability: Proposed by LD. Written in response to the letter from Trustees which was presented at the last council. This motion makes clear that councillors need to be more proactive in holding officers accountable. Changes to the report formatting should support the transparency of officers. No questions asked.

1. Reports

* No Trustees report as there has not been a Trustees meeting since the last Council.
* No Finance report as the person responsible is currently off sick.
* President (GL): Late due to covering the SU CEO and prioritising work relevant to this. Has had meetings with the OIA who review student complaints. Continuing to monitor footfall for the Learning Hub drop-in stand to help target student engagement and representation better.
* 18 accepted (unanimous).
  + Vice President Union Development (RB): Promoting societies awards to push numbers up. Secured extra budget for sports awards. Engaged members of sports and societies in mental health first aid training. Helping student groups to support them in running events. Varsity meetings. Chaired the Student Experience Working Group.

18 accepted (unanimous).

* + Vice President Welfare (KB): Helping the LGBT officer with events for LGBT history month. Planned some events aimed at international students. Organised events around International Women’s Day. Mental Health Awareness day (pledge tree). Setting up a food bank to allow students to swap non-perishable foods. Campaigning to prompt the University to employ another full time counsellor. Mental health first aid training for officers.

18 accepted (unanimous).

* + Vice President BME (TV): Not in attendance. Taken as read, questions directed to TV.

1 accepted, 14 abstained, 3 rejected.

* + Sports Officer (TW): Working with Bedford University on Varsity and creating a timetable for the event. Released tickets for the events and took part in a Q&A on the SU social media. Promoting team events. Ran an LGBT+ with sports campaign and altered social media to include a rainbow logo to promote LGBT. Working with Marketing Coordinator to promote This Girl Can. Resolved issues with committee elections. Decided to take it to a Bye-election and results will be announced soon.

18 accepted (unanimous).

* + Societies Officer (JB): Not in attendance, taken as read. Questions directed to JB. Discussion around their lack of attendance in both Student Council and Societies Committee. Vote to remove officer from position.

18 accepted (unanimous).

* + BME Officer (LE): Not in attendance, take as read. Questions directed to LE.
  + 4 rejected, 14 abstained.
  + Disabled Officer (CD): All accepted.

18 accepted (unanimous).

* + International Students Officer (SU): Not in attendance, no report.
  + LBGT Officer (PD): Not in attendance, no report.
  + Changemaker Officer (KN): Not in attendance. No report. Vote to remove officer from position.

18 accepted (unanimous).

* + Procedural motion to amend bye-laws regarding non-attendance to council.
  + PGR Officer (AS):
  + 18 accepted (unanimous).

1. Committee meetings
   * Societies Committee: Discussion around the upcoming Societies awards, and committee elections/by-elections.

17 accepted (unanimous).

* + Athletics Union: Continued discussion on the upcoming Varsity and Sports Awards, which will be the main focus over the next month. TW summarises some of the sport-related campaigns that clubs have been working on and charity events.

17 accepted (unanimous).

* + Education Committee: Discussion around representation and how advocates can continue to increase presence both within the Union and University. Discussion of lecture facilities, particularly with the presence of lectures in the Engine Shed due to lack of appropriate facilities in the University. Update on anonymous marking. STaR awards update about next steps in the process.

17 accepted (unanimous).

1. Issues arising from committee minutes: none.
2. Any other business

* GL: Presented proposed by-election dates for Council to approve:

13th April – announcement

20th April – nominations open

26th April – nominations close

27th April – 3rd May – campaigning

4th May – 4th May – voting

17 accepted (unanimous).

* Bye-laws and censure discussed.
* Discussion: needs to be consistency about removing officers, attendance needs to be addressed and council need to hold councillors and executive officers to account.

SD: Handover council could be needed in order for new councillors and officers to be aware of their roles as well as knowing their rights and responsibilities.

LD: email to be sent out to give a warning to officers to make sure the expectations are outlined to them about attendance, sending in reports and engagement.

Not removing Society Officer and Changemaker Officer

17 accepted (unanimous)

* RW: Council is extremely important for the Students’ Union and the Trustee board. It includes sabbatical officer reports, new decisions and makes sure student voices are heard. Councillors should look for new students to fill their roles and look at how they can make an impact. Councillors who are staying on are encouraged to stay on to see how council they can support the Students’ Union as a whole.

1. Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd April 2020.