

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

**Thursday 15th October 2020
18:00 Virtual**

PRESENT: Attendance Sheet in Appendix.

APOLOGIES:

ABSENT: Arooj Shahbaz – International Students' Officer
Ratri Mauricio – Sports Officer

MINUTES: Nathan McGuaghey

IN ATTENDANCE: Students' Union CEO
Students' Union Advocacy Manager

1. Apologies:

None

2. Conflicts of Interest:

None

3. Approval of Minutes:

Assumed read. Including February, March and April.

No questions

Vote through chat

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
20	0	0

Approved

4. Matters Arising from the minutes:

4.1 Elect Deputy Chair: EV nominates herself, no opposition.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
20	0	0

Approved

4.2 Elect Minute Taker: NM nominates himself, no opposition.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
20	0	0

Approved

4.3 Introduction from new CEO:

CEO: 4 priorities.

1. Operational & Financial stability so the Union can be there for students.
2. Big Plans. The strategy for 2021-24. Clear, accountable, achievable and ambitious. Talked about in a way that can be understood.
3. Bold and confident democracy. Moving from passive to active.

4. Shift to active campaigning. Ensuring the University is accountable to students.

QUESTIONS:

KP: Are we able to arrange appointments to meet you.

CEO: Yes

5. **Motions**

- 5.1 **Discussion Points**

- 5.1 **Big Plans**

CEO: Most people have never been involved in strategizing. By 10th December we will have agreed the strategy for approval. It will be confident and meet our needs. Asked for volunteers for sub-group to shape the strategy who can be role models and accountable so keep sending names. There will be reports on this coming back to council.

NO QUESTIONS

- 5.2 **Campaign for Change**

CEO: This will be home for all campaigns with no obvious officer or resources. Focus on improving student experience. Funding will not be coming from exec. Creates space for smaller groups rather than individual officers. They will submit form online that goes to review panel. Union will help with funds and design allowing all campaigns to be equal and linked to changemaker. Should be launched next week allowing for three terms of consistent campaigns. There will be a couple of student and staff involved in review panel.

NO QUESTIONS

- 5.3 **Mature Students Officer issue**

EV takes chair and invites LD to speak.

LD: In January a document proposing the removing of roles was brought to Council. This included Mature Students' Officer despite this role not being discussed in council. Proposes the inclusion of this role was an error and we should keep the role.

GT: The minutes only mentioned the MSA and Mature Students should have the right to a voice in council.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
22	0	0

Approved – Role is kept

- 5.4 **Bye-Law Amendments**

None

- 5.5 **Policy Proposals**

None

5.6 Officer Mandates

None

6. Reports

6.1 Trustee Report

SK: Budget was recommended and approved up to November. Sabbatical officer impact report was presented, and they were asked for more evidence. CEO presented the impact report. The review of terms of reference was postponed pending Big Plans. Bye-Law Sub-Committee amendment was not agreed.

NO QUESTIONS

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
--------------	-----------------	----------------

22	0	0
----	---	---

Approved

6.2 Finance Report and Budget

SK: Approach differs to other years for transparency. 1st Quarter budget has been approved helping us save money. Exec budget has increased 50%.

NO QUESTIONS

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
--------------	-----------------	----------------

22	0	0
----	---	---

Approved

6.3 Officer Reports

6.3.1 President

SK: First month was focussed on training while working from home. Staff were amazing help. NUS lead change was a help for national leadership. Sabbs are campaigning on 'bias and its types'. Been working on app from manifesto. Point was taken to Minister for Education.

NO QUESTIONS

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
--------------	-----------------	----------------

21	0	1
----	---	---

Approved

6.3.2 VP Education

YZ: In July the Sabb team completed training and improved on working skills. Kept in touch with NUS each week. Clarified manifesto. In September launched online learning survey 'Tell Yeqi'.

QUESTIONS:

GT: Where can we find 'Tell Yeqi'?

YZ: Facebook.

IR: Where is the training in meetings?

Chair: Suggests clarifying in officer reports which meetings are training.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
23	0	0

Approved

6.3.2.1 Changes to Manifesto

Chair: Council needs to agree any changes to manifesto as student representatives.

YZ: As a result of training wants to change mental health point as this is covered by the mental health team to focussing on course advocacy.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
20	1	2

Approved

6.3.3 VP Welfare and Activities

YJ: July was training including from Katie previous VP Welfare to continue work on mental health. Working on five areas: Ask Angela, Break Stigma, BRIT 2021, Sports Varsity, BHM with black societies.

QUESTIONS:

Was Break the Stigma introduced in July?

YJ: Yes

NM: Why is Societies Committee included in the report when you didn't attend?

ZB: You weren't in Sports either.

YJ: There was an issue with the calendar and that's why I couldn't attend.

NM: Then why was it still included in the report?

YJ: Won't do it in future.

GT: Why was a report not sent to committee?

YJ: A brief summary was submitted to Sports.

Chair: In future the report will need to be sent to three places: Athletic Union, Societies Committee and Student Council.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
12	8	3

Approved

6.3.3.1 Changes to Manifesto

YJ: Added more detail to be specific and dropped point 6.

QUESTIONS:

- LR: As Yeqi removed mock interviews from her manifesto will you take it on?
 YJ: Yes
 KS: Why is there no internet café?
 YJ: Informed cost would be too high.
 NM: Why are activities no longer free in manifesto?
 YJ: Cannot promise it.

Chair: Is that clear?

- NM: Yes, but believe it is an important part of manifesto.
 EV: Will it be online?
 YJ: Yes, job support will be online.
 CH: Will mental health events be monthly?
 YJ: No, they will follow mental health calendar.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
14	6	3
<i>Approved</i>		

6.3.4 VP Postgraduate Research

AB: Presented the nature of PGR to SU. July Training. Produced monthly videos for SU. Provided drop-in for international students. Survey of needs for PGR. Moved into new space. Dealt with COVID issues with spacing. Looked at how new space can benefit students.

QUESTIONS:

- GT: Why is the timesheet not filled out?
 AB: It is.
 GT: I didn't receive it filled in.

Chair: It is filled in.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
20	0	0
<i>Approved</i>		

6.3.5 Sports Officer

- Chair: No report and non-attendance.
 LR: AU didn't get a report.
 ZB: Had no communication.
 Chair: Will chase up.

6.3.6 Societies Officer

Chair: Tamara is having technical issues. So will read summary and respond with answers. Working groups online. Attended allocations. Working with Ellie and Lucinda on future ideas.

QUESTIONS:

LR: Wasn't everyone in the same boat with coronavirus?

Chair: Tamara was stranded at home.

AT: There is only one meeting recorded and no timesheet.

Chair: Tamara was confused by the timesheet, but it has been explained.

GT: What are the PTO hours?

AS: 5 a week.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
11	8	3

Approved

6.3.7 Disabled Students Officer

KP: Have been re-establishing and making new connections. Attending university meetings. Introduced sunflower lanyards. Worked on comms with university staff and making campus accessible. Looked at changemaker employability and changing futures.

QUESTIONS:

CD: The report talks about unopened emails but didn't have access to email last year.

KP: Not an accusation just explaining why there wasn't time to complete some things.

LR: First manifesto point should be amber not red.

KP: Just hadn't changed colours.

GT: Where can students get sunflower lanyards.

KP: Email officer account

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
22	0	0

Approved

6.3.8 International Students' Officer

Chair: No report and non-attendance will chase.

6.3.9 LGBTQ Officer

Has resigned from office along with EU Students' Officer

6.3.10 Mature Students' Officer

GT: Have been working on communication with phone, tablet and computer running. Supporting any student not just mature. Society has just been ratified and sent off for an event to be published.

QUESTIONS:

IR: Week 1 and 2 are missing.

GT: Difficult to adapt timing.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
20	0	0

Approved

6.3.11 Postgraduate (Research) Students' Officer

AS: Supported Ahmed in opening PGR space for 28th September, a lot of comms. Drop-ins over summer including welfare. PGR mental health training. Working on portfolio for awards and funds from enterprise. Did not fill in timesheet as did not have time. Confused about deadline.

Chair: Set own deadline for Council following Byelaw but communications had been confusing.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
23	0	0
Approved		

6.3.12 Womens' Officer

EL: Started with anonymous contact form. Sexism in sports clubs was identified as a problem. Worked with Rosie on sexual harassment training for the website. Got external speakers. Working on coppa feel and a virtual event.

AS: Good work for training.

QUESTIONS:

IR: Where can the contact form be found.

EL: Facebook

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
22	0	0
Approved		

6.3.13 Changemaker Officer

Chair: No report and no explanation. They were in attendance but have since left.

7. Ratification of Committee Minutes

7.1 Societies Committee

NM: Was a really good productive Committee with lots of engagement. Ratified a bunch of societies: Vietnamese, Gathered Voices, Afro-Caribbean, Coffee Morning, Business and Mature Students. De-ratified some societies. Read report of societies officer as apologies had been given but had had no contact from VP WA, Societies found this particularly disappointing.

Discussion on what Society Awards should look like this year. Discussion about Union Day and general disappointment with most societies having no more than 5 people contact them. There were specific concerns about how this would affect membership numbers.

NO QUESTIONS

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
22	0	0
Approved		

7.2 Athletic Union Committee

ZB: Chair wasn't in attendance. Union Day was on the agenda because of issues raised before the meeting but nothing was raised during the meeting. Ratified and de-ratified groups. No reports were submitted.

NO QUESTIONS

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
21	0	0

Approved

7.3 Education Committee

BG: Introduced Faculty Advocates many are staying over in the role. Much of the report talked about working online. Faculty forums written into byelaw. PGR updates. Discussion about Postgraduate elections.

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
23	0	0

Approved

7.4 Postgraduate Research Committee

AB: Chaired this meeting but Natasha was elected as chair and Kate as vice-chair. Issues were raised over supervisors' meetings software. Code of conduct and rules for PGR space. Postgraduates hadn't been included in bye-election. Looked at terms of reference. Renamed to Postgraduate research Committee.

NO QUESTIONS

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
24	0	0

Approved

7.5 Student Executive Committee

SU: Engaging PTOs. Set 1 objective for next meeting each. Sabs will help PTOs achieve objectives. Each exec is getting a hoodie with their role on.

NO QUESTIONS

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
23	0	0

Approved

8. Any Other Business

SU: People should feel free to speak to Sabbs and bring issues.

Chair: Council needs to agree on election dates.

QUESTIONS:

KS: What happens to missing officers with the election.

Chair: Will check up on missing officers.

Advocacy Manager: Resigned officers will be elected via Council.

EL: Can we fastrack as some of the roles are really important.
 Advocacy Manager: Potential for Emergency Council.

Bye-Election

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
20	0	0

Approved

Postgraduate Roles Bye-Election

<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
20	0	0

Approved

END

Attendance List overleaf /...

	Name	Role	Committee
1	Louise Dowson (LD)	Non Portfolio Councillor – Chair	Student Council
2	Samiullah (SK)	President	
3	Yeqi Zhou (YZ)	Vice President Education	
4	Yuanting Jiang (YJ)	Vice President Welfare and Activities	
5	Ahmed Basil (AB)	Vice President Postgraduate Research	
6	Kirstie Pope (KP)	PTO Disabled Students Officer	
7	Genine Taylor (GT)	PTO Mature Students Officer	
8	Anthony Stepniak (AS)	PTO Postgraduate Research	
9	Erin Laste (EL)	PTO Womens' Officer	
10	Tamara Holt (TH)	PTO Societies Officer	
11	Linnall Emanuel (LE)	PTO Changemaker Officer	
12	Nathan McGuaghey (NM)	Chair	Societies Committee
13	Alex Turner (AT)	Deputy Chair	Societies Committee
14	Izzy Rainbow (IR)		Societies Committee
15	Zoe Boyer (ZB)	Chair	AU Committee
16	Chloe Hayward (CH)	Deputy Chair	AU Committee
17	Lynsey Rayner (LR)		AU Committee
18	Keira? Sxxx (KS)		AU Committee
19	Beth Garrett	Non-Portfolio Councillor, Chair	Education Committee
20	Ektaa Vadgama (EV)		Education Committee
	Vacant	PTO LGBTQ+ Officer	
	Vacant	PTO EU Students' Officer	
	Vacant	PTO Postgraduate Taught Students Officer	
	Vacant	PTO BME Officer	