

Governance Zone meeting, 7th November 2011 3pm

University House

1. Present:

Aidan Mersh (President), Victoria Winterton (Chair Sport), Magid Mah (Chair Council), Lauren Fincham (Chair Education), Kora-Lee Holmes (Chair Campaigns & Democracy), Sean Brawley (Chair Welfare), Pippa Eveleigh (Chair Community).

Sophie Reid (Minute taker).

2. Apologies:

Joseph Brownridge

3. Minutes from the previous meeting:

Agreed as a true record.

4. Reports:

(a) President

- To follow up previous enquiry from Chair Welfare – Journals were removed from the shop as they were not selling. Can talk to Sandra, the shop manager, if there is demand for them.
- Had an election meeting with Chair C&D and D&E Co-ordinator, to set a timetable for publicity to be ready and handbooks. Publicity should be ready by week 9, ready to be checked in week 10.
- There was an idea brought up by the Sport Zone and other Council members about putting together a slideshow about elections. This can be shown to Societies, Committees and Clubs.
- Student Activism – Happening on the 19th November. Tickets ready and will be on sell from reception. The deadline for buying tickets will be 5pm on 17th November. Bus is leaving the Union at 5am. Will be back at 10.30pm approximately. Tickets £10.
- Community Zone part-time paid positions – Review of Standing Orders governing these positions has been brought forward. Chair C&D is having a consultation on the 24th November, where they will meet and put together a paper.
- Zero Tolerance Policy– Going to UEC on 25th. Will go back to zone for comment and then sent out to Council five clear days before Council on the 12th December.
- The University Foundation Award (UFA) – The UFA is an award made from taking five part time short courses and a final piece of work and is to be closed from September 2012. With short notice about the consultation exercise they were able to contribute towards that asking for a delay in the decision until an alternative model could be given in more detail. However this proposal was voted on at Senate and was voted down. We have won concessions for students currently on the course who wish to continue to achieve the full UFA rather than leisurely taking short courses. The Senate in January will see proposals of new provision and it will be when the university confirms its decision to close the course.

- Ops Plan follow up, after last meeting were questions were asked.
 - Objective 1: Two referendums have been decided. One is the No Platform Policy as it is up for renewal. The other one is one that came under Chair C&D manifesto pledge. Chair Welfare asked will it just be opened to Council, as it should be opened up beyond that. Used Leeds University Union as an example, where any student can make a suggestion. President explained that there were planned changes to the 'Your Union' section of the website, to give students more opportunity to share their ideas. This won't happen until January or February as Leigh Nicholson will be on paternity leave.
 - Objective 2: The president showed the Zone an example of how Sabbatical time is measured. It is done through Outlook and then the number of hours is transferred to Excel and then put into a pie chart. Commented that although the figure seems low, they are sector leading with member engagement. It only measures physical engagement.
 - Objective 3: D&E Co-ordinator does them all for consistency. Hopefully improving communication and meaning the zones are a lot better supported.
 - Objective 4: Opening up Chair training for Union Council to those wanting to run for Chair of zones is good idea. This had already been discussed between the President and Chair C&D. It was confirmed that Chair training is not compulsory for someone who wants to run as chair, but highly recommended. Paul Harsent ran for Chair Council and had not attended training.
 - Objective 5: Suggestion of slideshow to promote elections is going to happen.
 - Objective 6: Regarding making all part-time positions not paid. This change had gone through changes in Standing Order 8001 last year. There is still a (b) section, where they used to say that they were paid but these positions will now need to go with the other voluntary positions. This is simply a formatting change. The money will be reallocated in the budgets, so this will involve incoming Sabbaticals. This will then be scrutinised by the Trustee Board. Talking to Chair C&D and looking at the Strategy and Action Points, to see where the £3000 can be used.
 - Objective 9: Clubeasy will not be advertised on the Accommodation part of the website. There will still be advertising, but not Clubeasy.
 - Objective 10: Policy of No Platform is being looked at by solicitors.

Questions

- Chair Welfare asked who is being consulted about the part-time time roles. Chair C&D is taking lead and will be contacting those in the roles and people who previously held the positions.
- (b) Chair Campaigns & Democracy**
- Had an Elections meeting and planning publicity. Putting together slideshow to promote elections. Talking to Societies after Christmas.
 - Reformatting paid Chair positions.
 - Student Activism 2011 – 14 people interested already.
 - Campaign on KCOM monopoly is being put on hold. Issues with people who approached us to get involved, as it turns out they would have a lot less say on the campaign than they would of liked. It was the Tax Payers Alliance (TPA) who had approached HUU. A decision will be made at a later date.

- Student Demonstration – This was cancelled. Had originally booked a 79 seater but UEC made the decision to cancel after safety concerns. The President commented that the NUS event had not designated any stewards and that there was no risk assessment. The risk assessment had only come through and had not been passed yet. There also appeared to be no allowances for those with disabilities.

(c) Chair Council:

- Next Union Council is on 12th December.

(d) Chair Welfare:

- Nightline is still shut but is hoping to be opening sooner than thought.

(e) Chair Education:

- Had there 'Away Day' for the first meeting. Had lunch and went through plans of what everyone would like to do. Glenn Burgess came to speak to them. Then moved into an Education Zone meeting.
- Lauren Fincham elected as Chair Education Zone.
- VP Education gave a report at the Education Zone meeting:
 - Library – University investing 20 million on redevelopment. Looking at different Universities for ideas. £100, 000 spent over summer and feedback has been positive.
 - Feedback – Making policy on better practice, to make sure that feedback is given and legible.
 - Access, Support & Retention – Research on why Hull has problems with retention. Will be giving a report with recommendations.
 - Academic Council – 8th February. This will be focused on the Future of the University of Hull.
 - Student Led Teaching Awards – This will consist of around 6-8 awards for lecturers and then there will be an Award ceremony.
 - Chair Education had asked VP Education why there were no women on the panel for the student conference and what could be done about this. He has invited Estelle Hart from the NUS but didn't want to sit on the panel. He had then suggested as a last resort, to ask Chair C&D or Chair Education to chair the panel.
- Chair Postgraduate had talked about communication between researchers and Phd students.
- Faculty Co-ordinator (HYMS), noted that HYMS were not well integrated into the Union. Suggested working with Medsoc on improving this.
- Lee Fallin had announced that he will be bringing the meeting skills training forward.
- Chair Education & Richard Brooks (Councillor of Scrutiny) had brought a motion but there was confusion about quoracy, so the motion was just discussed. The motion was to do with the Academic Conference, and in the end it was decided that Estelle Hart would sit on the panel.
- Going to go through the Education Zone Standing Orders at the next meeting.

- Chair Sport commented that Alexander Paradise believed he would be moved to Governance as there wasn't enough room on Education. It was agreed that this was completely wrong and this would be followed up with him by the President.
- Possible Zone Away Day to Go Ape. President suggested an away day for Governance to the Amnesty International Policeman's Ball.

Questions & comments

- Chair Welfare asked what the goal of the teaching awards was. Chair Education responded by saying it was to promote what good lecturers are like and set criteria. It gives the capacity to assess lecturers. Commented that it was also a bit of fun.
- Chair Sport asked why Estelle Hart would only be asked to sit in the audience.
- Chair Community had concerns that Estelle Hart was being asked purely because she was a woman, and not because of what she can bring to the conference. Also commented that it shouldn't really matter if the people who are coming are really good and they should maybe focus on how well VP Education has done getting them.
- Chair Welfare commented that Estelle Hart is maybe not the best person and asked if there was anybody who would be more relevant.
- Chair Education commented that Diana Johnson had not been asked, as she pulled out last year.
- Chair C&D mentioned a website that listed female speakers and that she had told VP Education about it. She felt that blaming the sector was an easy option.
- Chair Community asked that a question is brought back to the Education Zone, asking if there was someone more suitable and could they be approached.
- Chair Education commented that they wouldn't want a massive panel, as then there wouldn't be enough time to give everyone a chance to speak.
- Chair Sport suggested using a female lecturer. President also commented that there was no one on the panel representing staff.
- Regarding the teaching awards, Chair Welfare asked if the following question could be taken back to Education Zone – Is there not a possibility that such an award scheme could not be perceived, similarly to other award schemes in other comparable sectors, as somewhat tokenistic and in fact receive a negative response from non-recipients?

(f) Chair Sport

- Giving AU feedback to the Sports Centre to help make improvements. For example, the Hockey Club have had a line missing on pitch for four years.
- Went to the BUCS regional meeting. Found interesting and learnt about other financial situations. Found out that a lot of Universities are actually pulling teams, to save money.
- Went to York with Mark Weighill and looked at their facilities.
- Had a good turnout for the Naked Calendar. They will be slightly more expensive this year but the pictures are bigger.

- AU Ball tickets. Had sold over 120 in less than an hour at the time of the Sports Zone meeting, and these sold out on the same day. Managed to get a really good deal this year, with a band and comedian costing the same as just a band at Staff House.
 - Tour plans are coming along well.
 - Biggest club is cheerleaders, with approx 100. Speaking with the Sports and Fitness Centre to see if there are any possible avenues for them to cheer for different teams.
 - VP Sport got in contact with liberation chairs, with regards to issues with the AU and Tour. Chair Sport had attended the meeting and commented that it was quite production and that VP Sport has set out action plans. The responsibility would lie with the Tour Representatives and not the club Presidents. They will be trained and sign a form that the liberation chairs are going to put together. The President asked that VP Sport check that Tour leaders can take responsibility, as they might not carry any weight and it is the Presidents who are directly involved with the Union.
 - AU Secretary - Has e-mailed those that have paid to confirm and have told those who haven't to chase payment.
 - BUCS Rep - BUCS is going really well. Have had a couple of transport issues. Approx 13 teams won, 11 lost and Rugby League has had a really good start.
 - Communications Officer - Has got 5 AU articles in Hullfire.
 - Events Office couldn't attend meeting as was selling Ball tickets, however VP Sport reported everything is going well. Going to have a table at the ball for people who aren't in teams.
 - Kit Rep - Has had a busy week. Was due to have a meeting but Ash was in York, so had a telephone meeting instead. Have had some kit come in and it looks really good.
 - Varsity Rep - Varsity confirmed for the 26th February and planning to stay over so people can have a night out as well. York had commented that the turnout wasn't great last year. If it turns out like this again, they will not do it anymore. There will hopefully be a showcase match at the end, which can take place with floodlights.
 - Tour Rep - Tour reunion is on Wednesday. Bit behind with publicising as couldn't get time off work but should hopefully have a good turnout. Will be taping up inappropriate tops.
 - VP Sport commented that he will be making speeches at Societies Council about Tour, so if they want to get involved they can.
- Victoria explained that she fed back to Sport what had been discussed in Governance.

Questions & comments

- Chair Education asked if taping up tour tops was the best option. Chair Community commented that in reality it is really only a very small percentage of people who wear really offensive tops.
- Chair Sport explained that tops would be monitored by VP Sport, the AU Executive and the Sport Co-ordinator. She also explained that there is going to be a video shown at Tower when they've got their attention that

highlights any issues. The President commented that the main responsibility lies with VP Sport. He will need justification if asked why they are taping up tops, rather than turning away.

(g) Chair Community

- RAG – Organising trip to Ghana. Should cost around £1400. We had asked about insurance and if we can see the insurance details to make sure it is all in proper order. They are also organising a flashmob with drama and dance. Had their first raid for CatZero. They raised £375, which was good.
- Amnesty ball looks really good and they have some fantastic prizes for raffle.
- ISA – Trip to London had to be cancelled due to accommodation issues. They are working on getting the deposit of £200 back. They are also organising a Paris trip and the Winter Ball. Looking at getting involved with other sporting activities, other than football.
- HUSSO – They are working hard to set up a new project called Readytrek, which is an extension of a previous project called Trekkers. Need more funding, so going to talk to VPC and look into fundraising ideas. Also working on a UCAS project and a project called Sexpression. Also doing CRBs and desperately trying to find more minibus drivers.
- Media – Hullfire was not brought to VPC before print to check, so Hullfire got fined £500. This decision was scrutinised by the Community Zone and it was found that there is nothing written in the regulations to say this must be done. Therefore they have apologised and the fine will not happen. The Life Editor stepped down but they have been replaced. Big thanks to Dom and Jon for their work on the The Hullfire website, it looks great. This will allow for extended articles on the website and will be good for monitoring statistics.
HUU:TV are talking to Alex O'Brien about a bertie cam.
- Street Reps – Are going to do bin tagging.
- VPC working with the Societies Events Officer, about getting GAME to hold a gaming event using Xbox kinect.
- Adam Sheridan is working on Movember.
- Issue regarding Media and HUU:TV talked about at Community Zone. Issues were resolved.
- Chair Community chaired a Societies Executive meeting, which was set up to try and resolve some issues within the Exec. Announced that the Treasurer has stepped down.

Questions & comments

- Chair Governance asked what the issues were with the Societies Executive. The problems were mostly around communication. Chair Community explained that they have discussed ways to improve the team dynamics within the Executive. Training and social team bonding have been suggested. They are going to talk about the situation at Societies Council, to explain why things haven't been running correctly.
- Chair Council asked what RAG would be doing in Ghana. Chair Community wasn't sure of the schedule but believed that it would probably be school projects.

- Chair Council asked if it had been confirmed whether huu:tv was a Standing Committee or a Society. They were waiting for the evaluation of the part-time paid positions and then decide. At the moment, it is being left as a Society, without access to the Society grant fund. This is because they already had money spent on them for a computer.
- Chair Education asked what would be done about a complaint regarding a naked woman in The Hullfire. The President asked for the complaint to go to him.

(h) Chair Environmental & Ethical

- Sent his apologies.
- Chair Governance gave a report for him in his absence.
- Going to bring a motion about bottled water, but there is a few changes to be made first.
- Looking at policy options for HUU and environmental/ethical issues.

5. Any Other Business

(a) Society Ratifications:

Passed:

-Human Right Action.

-WARPS.

-African Caribbean Society (ACS)

-Hull Students Against Fees and Cuts

-ISA (Scarborough)

-Poker Society – There was discussion about gambling and whether this was an issue. It is fine if isn't for money.

-Crimsoc

Following passed pending on check about Committee members for Scarborough:

-Debating Society (Scarborough)

-Japanese Anime Society (Scarborough)

-Pool Society (Scarborough)

Not passed:

-Scarborough Tide – Issues with contact details.

- Chair Welfare asked about rotating Chairs on Zones and if this was going to happen. It is an option in Semester 2, but only if people want to rotate.
- The President explained the measurement of Sabbatical time spent engaging with students in more detail. He has asked Chairs of the zones to sit down with their relative Sabbatical and get them to give them their reports for student engagement. This can then be scrutinised.
- Chair Governance asked if Sabbaticals have contracted hours. They are contracted to 37 a week, but often do a lot more.

Meeting closed 4.50pm

Please note – Societies that were pending, were checked after the meeting. The following have not been ratified as they will need 5 Committee members

-Debating Society (Scarborough)

-Japanese Anime Society (Scarborough)

-Pool Society (Scarborough)