

Union Council held on the 6th February 2012 at 6.30pm

In University House

Present:

Chair Council & AU Events Officer, Magid Mah
Deputy Chair Council & Councillor of Scrutiny, Thom Rawlinson
President, Aidan Mersh
VP Community, Tom Peel
VP Education, Matthew Barrow
VP Welfare, Phil Pocknee
VP Sport, Ashley Armitage
Chair Media, Dominic Fogg
Chair ISA, Komal Tariq
Chair RAG, Mark Tatton
Chair HUSSO, Laura Anderson
Chair Campaigns & Democracy, Kora-Lee Holmes
Chair Environmental & Ethical, Joseph Brownridge
AU Secretary, Paul Harsent
AU Treasurer, Tom Kharchi
AU Communications Officer, Toby Carr-Brown
BUCS Rep, Jez Horsell
Kit Rep, Clare Price
Varsity Rep, Mark Weighill
Chair Sport & Councillor of Scrutiny, Victoria Winterton
Councillor of Scrutiny, Jonathan Chambers
Chair Welfare & Councillor of Scrutiny, Sean Brawley
Chair Community & Councillor of Scrutiny, Pippa Eveleigh
Councillor of Scrutiny, Richard Brooks
Chair Education & Councillor of Scrutiny, Lauren Fincham
Councillor of Scrutiny, Timothy Sykes
Scarborough Welfare Officer, Madonna Masuka
Scarborough Sport Officer, Chris Long
Faculty Co-ordinator (FASS), Matthew Fensome
Chair LGBT, Ellen Ricketts
Chair Black Students, Nii Akoto Dodoo-Amoo
Chair Women's Committee, Dominique Richards
Faculty Co-ordinator (FOS), Alexander Paradise
Chair Part-time Students, Maria Leonard
Faculty Co-ordinator (HUBS), Glen Burgon

Attending:

Paul Tatton, Chief Executive
Sophie Reid, Democracy & Equality Co-ordinator (minute taker)

1. Apologies:

Chair Societies Executive, Ben Croft
Scarborough Community Officer, Loz Tinsley
Chair Postgraduate Students, Jacob Samoraj
Chair Mature Students, Kathryn Kay
Chair Disabled Students, Daryl Jones
Minutes from previous meeting. Agreed as a true record.

2. Matters Arising.

None

3. Minutes from previous meeting.

Agreed as a true record.

4. Housing Presentation:

The President gave a presentation on housing with a powerpoint.

The Strategy: Objectives

1. Greater satisfaction with accreditation system of private housing
2. University meets demand on principle of guaranteed university accommodation for all entrants
3. A more knowledgeable student body to maximise greater choice that will come from 1&2

Goal 1: Private Sector

- It is fundamental that the UoH funds the administration of accreditation (£50k)
 - Improves credibility of the scheme because not dependent on Landlord subscriptions
 - Secures the reputation of UoH & HUU
 - Subscriptions can find additional projects (tackle fly tipping, street reps)
- Change in personnel
- Change in job description to match new priorities
 - More inspections of property
 - More connected approach

Goal 2: Meeting Needs of all entrants

- 2 reviews in 4 years
- December 2011; Group set up to crystallise recommendations to act on
- Although HUU's prioritisations may differ from the groups outcome are shared

Build on Campus

- Research in both papers say No.1 preference is for on campus accommodation
- Will stop students being put into private
- Matches other UoH priorities
 - Conferences
 - Library
 - Utilisation/maximization of space HEFCE

Infrastructure @ Halls of Residence

- Wi-Fi at the Lawns (part of ICT plan)
- Removal of Needler/refurbishment of Ferens
- Free shuttle bus – Ensure route is same as night buses to stop confusion.

Lawns Centre

- Working group on the future of the Lawns Centre – Gym/sports centre, is a bar necessary, should a shop be brought back, DDA compliant.

Reshuffle the Portfolio

- May have enough total beds at this stage but are they the right beds?
 - More en suite at lawns/on campus?
 - More self catered at the lawns/more catered on campus?
 - Enough houses?

5. Reports

(a) Chair Governance Zone

Haven't had a meeting this semester yet but will be having on Thursday.

- Governance Zone Ops Plan
 - Revised and updated following the Rate Your Union survey from semester 1.
 - All KPIs were set with the goal to achieve 70% success rates on various topics the following apply to the Governance Zone Ops Plan:
 - KPI 2 - 90% answer that they agree or strongly agree that HUU has a positive impact on their student life, we hit 91%.
 - KPI 5 - 70% answer that they agree or strongly agree that their opinion counts in the decision making of HUU - we achieved 79.4% meaning we've nearly hit the 2012-13 goal.
 - Above the 70% threshold we also had the results that:
 - 76% agree that we campaign on issues that affect them.
 - 72.4% believe it is easy to submit an idea to better the university, city or union..
 - Basically the Governance Zone has hit 2.5 out of 7 KPIs. All zones should be going through their part of the Rate Your Union Survey to see how well they're doing with their KPIs.

President

- University Foundation Award
 - Proposal from UoH and the resulting University Senate on 1st Feb. produced some large wins for Hull students
 - It had previously been proposed that students would only be allowed to continue in the UFA if they had gained 40 credits which disadvantaged part-time students but this is no longer the case.

- Continuing courses will now be decided on by student choice and popularity rather than the University which gives students a greater level of choice on what they would like to study.
- In order to ensure a smooth transition into the 2012-13 academic year for those wishing to complete the UFA HUU needs to keep up pressure on UoH to ensure a critical mass of short courses in various modes of delivery for Sep 2012 and beyond.
- Also there is need to keep pressure on the quantity and nature of advertising and communication about the UFA; for example publishing a short course brochure similar to the UFA brochure but for the whole university.

Chair Environment and Ethics

- Green Impact Report
 - Submitted to Green Impact before Christmas.
 - They've since comeback and asked for more information which is pretty normal.
 - Joe is now working on this for resubmission by 15th Feb.
 -

Chair Campaigns and Democracy

- Elections
 - Information meeting was reasonably well attended and gave out a lot of much needed info to unsure potential candidates.
 - Procedural Meeting - reminder on wednesday. Compulsory for anyone standing as a sabbatical candidate but anyone considering a Chairship might find it useful to attend especially regarding election rules. There will also be the opportunity to ask the RO and ARO any questions about campaign ideas or publicity. 1.15 Wed MR1
- No Platform Policy
 - Checked by a solicitor and wording has been set in line with their guidance.
 - Funding has been put aside for potential yes and no campaigns should anyone take upon themselves to lead them.
- Priority Campaign Ballot
 - Discussing later in the course of the evening but there are currently three on the paper with room for more.

Questions & Comments

- There was a discussion on whether this should be debated in Union Council. It was explained that it was going to referendum as a renewal of a current policy. This means that Union Council voting on it wouldn't result in anything. Several Councillors felt that it would be beneficial to have a debate about it. The Board of Trustees and UEC took the decision to take it to referendum. People can campaign for/against the policy when it does go to referendum. It was asked whether the policy is dropped if it gets a no in the referendum. It will lapse. The President felt it was important for Council members to have a stance on it, as it was to do with the Union and some Councillors are running in the upcoming elections need to show leadership on the issue.

(b) Chair Community Zone

- HUU Awards coming soon
- Give It A Go sessions planned for the rest of the semester.
- Re-freshers fair was really successful.
- Currently have 1787 who are members of a Society
- 454 attended the ISA party.
- £320 raised by a RAG flashmob, that also featured on BBC Three and the money will be going to Yorkshire Cancer Research.
- There was a mediation meeting between The Hullfire and the Women's Committee over the last issue of The Hullfire. An apology has been printed.
- HUSSO working on a new projects and still busy as ever
- The Societies Executive Committee currently has an Acting Chair as Chair Societies is not available for personal reasons. There are a few issues with Chair Societies that will be dealt with on his return.

(c) Chair Education Zone

- Student Led Teaching Awards
 - Student Led Teaching Awards have now launched and you may have seen the publicity across the union
 - We have had roughly 140 nominations so far but the target is 750 so we still have a way to go. Nominations can be done online or through nomination forms that can be found at the HUU reception
 - We're promoting it through our various publicity materials and getting course reps to promote it
 - Nominations close on the 1st April
 - We have booked staff house for 1st May for the awards evening where Wes Streeting from the Helena Kennedy Foundation will be the speaker. Any student whose nomination is shortlisted will receive 2 free tickets to the awards which will encompass a three course meal, live music etc.
- Course Representatives
 - We now have 563 course reps
 - Last Academic Council was successful. We had a good turnout and there was discussion on issues such as a uniform procedure for late submissions and many other issues that reps raised
 - We have ordered course rep comment/suggestion boxes and marketing are designing the covers for them. These will be situated in all academic departments as another method for students to contact their course rep
 - National Course Rep Conference was a real success with delegates picking up some good ideas and tips to try out in Hull
 - Currently looking into online elections

- Academic Conference
 - Taking place this Wednesday at 3pm in Meeting Room 1
 - Focus is on the future of the University of Hull and it will contain panel debates and workshops
 - HUUtv, Jam Radio and Hullfire will all be reporting from it and quite possibly Times Higher Education and The Guardian
 - Confirmed panellists include
 - David Davis MP
 - Vice-Chancellor Professor Calie Pistorius
 - Pro-Vice Chancellor Glenn Burgess
 - QAA Chief Executive Anthony McClaren
 - HEA Chief Executive Craig Mahoney
 - NUS President Liam Burns
 - NUS Women's Officer Estelle Hart
 - All of council are encouraged to attend because it is going to be a really interesting event. And there's a free buffet!

(d) Chair Sport Zone

- 624 going on+
- Tour, which is 200 better than last year and about 100 better than has ever gone. Running through the rules and regulations and t-shirts will be ordered shortly.
- VP Sport had approached Smith & Nephew for funding, which has been unsuccessful. Going to approach more local companies.
- BUCS Development Day – Getting clubs to create a portfolio and if they don't complete then they won't be in BUCS anymore.
- Looking into a rolling Tweeter feed & newsletter for the Athletic Union
- Rugby League are in the BUCS Championship
- GIAG session for Woman's Cricket happening Friday 10th February
- GIAG session for Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) on Friday 17th February
- Man auction happening on Wednesday 8th February to raise money for charity
- Badminton still remain undefeated
- Plans for Varsity are all in place. Double Decker shuttle buses taking people there. Tickets go on sale on the Tuesday 7th February. They are £5 for a day ticket and £10 for a night ticket. Hopefully will get about 400-500 people going.

(e) Chair Welfare Zone

- Haven't been able to have a meeting yet with the Welfare Zone
- Looking to re-instate SHAG week.
- There will be more of a Medical Student focus- Sexpression is a project that they do, working alongside schools to make sure all students are engaged with sexual health. There will be stalls in the Union on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, giving away cake, roses and condoms.

Questions and comments

- It was asked what SHAG stood for. Sexual Health And Guidance.

6. Any Other Business

Associative memberships

Paul Taylor (Scarborough Rugby Union Coach)

Carl Jackson (Scarborough Rugby Union Coach)

John Hatton (Past Student and Member of Scarborough Rugby Union)

Huw Davis (Friend and social member of Scarborough Rugby Union)

Sports Zone Associative memberships

All passed

Discussion on Referenda

- The President explained that Chair C&D had asked Governance Zone to ask their Zones about referenda questions.
- The following are suggested:
 - A campaign to identify and eradicate hidden costs at the University of Hull
 - A campaign to open the market for telecommunication in Hull
 - A campaign for a better replacement of the Concourse Lounge space in University House after the summer building works
 - A campaign to ensure postgraduate study at the University of Hull remains affordable and accessible.
 - A campaign to improve representation of disabled people within the union, the university and the city of Hull and town of Scarborough.
 - A campaign to improve awareness of the problem of homelessness in the city of Hull and town of Scarborough.
 - A campaign to improve the reputation of Students in the communities of Hull and Scarborough

No Platform

There was discussion about whether Union Council should Debate the renewal of the No Platform Policy, which is going to referenda with the elections.

Jonathan Chambers gave a Speech For the renewal of the No Platform Policy

Dominic Fogg gave a Speech Against the Renewal of the No Platform Policy

There was a discussion about it and the Chief Executive clarified that if anyone wanted to speak in the Union, then they had to give Adam Sheridan two weeks notice so he can do checks. The policy is in place from a safety point of view.

Sean Brawley commented that there would be a debate on the No Platform policy on Monday 20th February. Time and venue would be sorted soon and advertised.

Tom Peel commented that there would also be a debate on the Article 4 Houses of Multiple Occupancy on the 21st February at 6.30pm. There will hopefully be some councillors there and anyone is welcome to attend.