

**Student Council Minutes**

Thursday 10th June 2021, 2pm-3pm

**Chair: Dale Tromans (Postgrad Rep)**

1. **Welcome and Apologies for absence (chair)**

*Attendees: Dale Tromans, El Lewis, Riley Moeller, Amethyst Elson, Nasreen Ahmed, Ola Matar, Sheethal Ragunath, Lorna Sowry, Sam Derbyshire, Mishaal Amin, Daniella Carr-Roberts, Yasmin Longshaw, Olivia Hammond, Steve Moons.*

*Apologies received from: Stephen Peter Dean, Jemma Kalinowski, Heather Louise Renton, Jack Rankin, Daniel Forrester, Adam Kerr.*

New attendees were welcomed.

1. **CSU Democracy Review (CSU President)**

EL: Acknowledged that the council had touched on this last time. Undertaking a review of CSU democracy. To ensure as representative as accessible as possible. Process has started. Using external consultancy. Initial thoughts around roles. Next will be meeting with staff. Student focus group grew from 15 to 18 members. There will be five 2hr sessions, with paid volunteers. Good mix of engaged/ less engaged students. Excited to see how things go. Looking to end mid-July, we’ll be given a recommendation report that will go to Student Council.

NA: “Going to have a look at why it’s not working 😂”

NA: “I was going to ask about whether there has been a BAME rep previously?”

NA: “As I only heard about the position this year during the elections”

EL: Will put NA in touch with previous officer. ACTION.

1. **CSU Student Trustee (CSU President)**
   1. Approval from Council

EL: We have recruited one student Trustee; Dale Tromans (this is why he has stepped out of the room whilst we vote).

No abstains or votes against.

Dale is recruited to the Trustee board. He will start on the 1st of August (after the Democracy Review working group have concluded to ensure he isn’t a paid Trustee and there are no conflicts of interest).

Dale returns and notes his thanks and enthusiasm to get started.

1. **Year in review (Chair)**
   1. To consider the following questions
      1. **What have you enjoyed about Council this year?**

YL: Enjoyed that it was online, more accessible this way.

AE: I quite liked this virtual platform; I can always easily access the things that we’ve talked about. Here are the activities and campaigns etc.

RM: I think it is quite nice being on Teams (easier than trying to find emails) - though I am an “in person person” personally.

NA: (mic issues)

MA: I would answer but I've been absent for most of this year being sick.

DT: MA? How were your experiences?

MA: Was more involved last year.

OH: Enjoyed being able to contact people quickly when needed (e.g. safety nets)

DC: Online is helpful, everyone had access. Really helpful being able to ask questions outside of meetings.

NA: (mic finally working!) Never been in SC before, but applied because it sounded interesting, felt that some roles disappeared last year (BAME rep etc). Felt that some things were missing from the agenda – political discussions etc. But looking forward to starting next year.

LS: From my point of view with having kids at home and so much else going on this year, being able to have the online platform rather than having to travel has been brilliant.

RM: Feedback, not positive or negative; bouncing off accessibility point – attendance has been higher. Even if attendance is higher, engagement seems lower.

OM: I was not involved last year as I am a new student, but I am definitely looking forward to being part of the union.

AE: I enjoyed that one social we had online even though it was just a lil chat on teams

NA: I agree; having uni and meetings online has been super accessible especially for those of us with jobs. That being said, I am literally sat at my workplace before my shift starts in a literal different country; which having everything online has def catered to!

DT: Acknowledged comments in the chat.

* + 1. **What would you like to see done differently next year?**

OH: Department rep for this year, had a lot of people message me directly on social media, had issues not related to academic issues. Feeling suicidal and struggling with mental health. Had 30 messages in one day once. Would like to see emails for SERS rather than them contacting them on personal social media.

DT: Out of office?

EL: Noted that CA heard this feedback.

RM: Wellbeing officer role could be helpful? Advertise roles more. CSU emails going to spam.

DT: Good comms issue, too many emails, LIS overhaul over the summer will hopefully help this.

EL: Democracy review will address this.

AE: More training for Student Council? Mix of compulsory and non-compulsory training. E.g. campaigning training less relevant to some. Preferably an engaging governance induction. ACTION.

* + 1. **Is there any training you would have liked to have received to aid your contributions to Council?**

RM: Training was good, but there’s a lot going on at the start of the year – refreshers would be good ACTION. Connect with other unions? ACTION.

YL: Training was slightly confusing, also Geog soc – all the training merged together. Forgettable acronyms.

AE: Networks developed at NUS conf have been helpful for me at least, I can now reach out to loads of LGBTQ+ reps around the country

DT: More NUS training sessions? ACTION.

NA: Signed up for a workshop that everyone could do. GRIT? They give you the tools to take care of each other as a community. Would be very beneficial. Perhaps rather than a welfare officer, everyone could be qualified? They give you opportunities to build networks. They do teambuilding, wellbeing workshops etc.

DT: Great point and something we can look into. Did a half day mental health awareness course this year. Maybe we could offer full course?

DC-R: Half day training was good but rushed, two day training could be more beneficial. Didn’t know what was already going on – in training got generic examples – hard to apply these without knowing what we were already doing.

EL: Anything else? Can be broad?

RM: Staff access to LinkedIn learning is helpful.

DT: We’ll prod ILS on this. ACTION.

SR: I would like to get training from the previous International Representative or someone responsible for it to get to know more about the role and the responsibilities.

DT: We’ll put you in touch. ACTION.

RM: International rep on NUS? More NUS training would be good.

DT: Summer homework for Jack!

AE: Team building parachute jump!

RM: Team building escape room!

DT & EL: Go for it!

Warrington: Wellbeing survey – please fill this out!

RM: “Ohh last comment i swear..maybe...but maybe having some leadership/personality type workshops would be helpful. I did a bunch at my old university for leadership roles I did and it's been really beneficial.

NA: NUS website have manifesto on BAME race and equality. They have workshops to train people on race equality – would be cool to look into that.”

AE: SU having a presence at the DoGoodFeelGood fair would be good. Could get a lot of people in that way. Skills and CV focussed. ACTION.

EL: Incoming SC keep an eye on your emails, we’ll want to get you involved.

EL: Thanked team and wished the new team well (EL exits)

1. **Any Other Business (Chair)**

AE: What's the role of the different networks that are being established? What activities will they be running? E.g. Womens, BAME, LGBT+

Warrington: BME rep work with stakeholders, chaplaincy work, international students. The SU will help support campaigns. Being planned over the summer.

AE: Specific societies not necessarily part of University/SU work, but the networks will be?

Warrington: Yes. Allowing societies to be societies.

AE: The network combines the separate student groups who care about these issues? Okay.

OM: Can all reps be involved in all networks?

DT: We’ll clarify this. ACTION.

1. **Note thanks to all Student Council members for this year (Chair)**

DT: Massive thankyou to everyone who’s been a part of Council this year. Testament to all of you for being here alongside uni work and lockdowns. You should all be really proud of yourselves 🥰 You’ve been doing an amazing job all year. Enthusiasm has been incredible. Have a restful summer and celebrate your achievements!

Keep in touch!