

**HULL UNIVERSITY
UNION**

UNION COUNCIL – Monday, 8 May 2017 – Hull Campus, 6:30pm, Meeting Room 2

MINUTES

Attendance

First Name	Surname	Position	Attendance		
			20 th Feb	27 th March	8 th May
Student Officers					
Matthew	Thorneycroft	VP Education			
George	Bainbridge	VP Welfare & Community			
Amy	Jackson	VP Activities			
Matthew	Bramall	VP Sport			
Simon	Hernandez	VP Scarborough			
Governance Zone					
Edward	Towers	Campaigns and Democracy Officer			
Aona	Stuart	Environment and Ethics Officer			N/A
Welfare & Community Zone					
Connor	Robinson	LINKS Officer			
Connor	Massey	LGBT+ Officer (Role share)			
Rayne	Goddard			N/A	N/A
Claire	Govera	Black Asian Minority and Ethnic (BAME) Officer			
Kym	Cardona	Women's Officer			
VACANT		Disabled Students Officer	N/A	N/A	N/A

Education Zone					
VACANT		Mature Students Officer	N/A	N/A	N/A
VACANT		Part-time Students Officer	N/A	N/A	N/A
VACANT		Postgraduate Taught Officer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rebecca	Devine	Postgraduate Research Officer			
Qiwen	Wu	International Students Officer			N/A
Vassili	Crispi	Faculty Rep Hull York Medical School			
Steven	Storey	Faculty Rep Faculty of Science and Engineering			
Jack	Price	Faculty Rep FACE			
Victoria	Welborn	Faculty Rep Faculty of Health and Social Care			
Charlie	Hart	Faculty Rep Business, Law and Politics			
Theodoros	Stylianou	Faculty Rep Business, Law and Politics			
Lisa	George	Course Rep Forum Rep			N/A
Carla	Busuttil	Course Rep Forum Rep			N/A
Activities Zone					
Christopher	Knott	Chair SEC			N/A
		Media Representative	N/A	Henry Smith	Tim Goodfellow
Danielle	Griffin	Chair RAG			

Max	Cummins	Societies Council Rep			
Scarborough					
Bernhard	Budin	Campaigns Officer			
Josiah	Barker	Community Officer			
James	Lamb	Sports Officer			
Eden	Clark	Welfare Officer			
Rebecca	Potter	Education Officer			
Rosalyn	Davey	Equality and Diversity Officer			
Sports Zone					
Evie	Edmed	AU Tour Officer			N/A
Declan	Whiting	AU Kit & Equipment Officer			
Jags	Sanghera	AU BUCS Officer			
Millie	Rowbotham	AU Participation & Inclusivity Officer			
Laura	Webb	AU Secretary & Communications Officer			
Kimberley	Houghton	AU Varsity & Events Officer			
Councillors for Scrutiny					
Ben	Howard	Councillor for Scrutiny - Education		N/A	N/A
Elizabeth	Barracough	Councillor for Scrutiny - Education			
Oliver Edward	Taylor	Councillor for Scrutiny - Governance			
Christian	Calgie	Councillor for Scrutiny - Governance			N/A
Joshua	McMullan	Councillor for Scrutiny - Activities		N/A	N/A

Salman	Anwar	Councillor for Scrutiny – Activities			
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In attendance:

Tania Struetzel, Democracy & Governance Co-ordinator (DGC)
Emily Normington, Executive Support Co-ordinator (ESC, Minutes)
Liz Pearce, Membership Services Director (MSD)
Joseph Sanderson (Badminton Club)
Jennie Watts (VP Welfare & Community – elect)
Daniel Linford (RAG Treasurer – elect)
Abigail Triner (Chair RAG – elect)
Ellie Gillies
Katie Wilkie (WARPS President-elect)

1. Adoption of the agenda
Agenda adopted.
2. Resignations (to note)
Christopher Knott, Chair SEC
3. Apologies for absence (for acceptance)
Apologies accepted as noted above.
4. Minutes from previous meeting (for approval) (Paper A)
Minutes approved as a correct record.
5. Elections Report (to note) (Paper B)
No questions received.
6. New General Business

6.1 M.1617-22 Motion to amend SO 4002 Sports Zone (Paper F)

VPS read through the motion. VPA suggested an amendment, as Union Council has no financial impact, VPA agreed with some elements of the proposed motion, however noted that other zones could take issue with it; VPA recommended appointing but not paying AU Exec, and instead giving the officer team a mandate to improve support for volunteers generally. VPE suggested to work on it as a project as a zone by zone change. The amendment was seconded by other members.

Amendment to remove Resolves 1 and only state that the selection process for AU Exec members will change to appointment. To add to Resolves to mandate the Student Officers to discuss this project proposal at their next UEC meeting and holistically review support for part-time Officers.

With 9 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and 4 abstentions, the amendment passed.

VPS clarified that the AU Presidents have passed this motion at the last AU Council as they feel this must go ahead to improve their zone. Kim Houghton (KH) said she spends 75% of her week doing admin roles within the SU, she doesn't engage with students or the community to represent students, it's a role with a lot of admin; if it was a paid role, it would give students the opportunity to be involved and get paid; KH added she gave up her paid job to fulfil the role.

VPE said it should not be restricted to the AU, student staff could help with other zones, not just the AU. VPA added that generic student staff could do these tasks, KH said staff must be passionate about the AU to apply. Max Cummins (MC) is currently a student staff member and involved in societies, agreed that the roles are needed, student staff is a good idea; however noted that UC cannot pass financial decisions. KH said this motion can be passed, but may be rejected by the Trustee Board. KH noted that this would be the only way for the AU to move forward.

VPSc agreed that it could bring issues with other zones, however if this worked out, it would be easier to lobby for officers of other zones to be paid for their roles; KH in agreement. Jack Price (JP) asked for clarification on whether applicants would be general or AU; KH confirmed that anyone could apply, applicants would know it's an AU role but there would be no set role, just AU staff; there would be a list of tasks which must be done.

VPWC asked whether there could just be one paid role, 4 may be too many financially. VPE suggested 1 project lead, with 3 voluntary. Connor Massey (CM) pointed out that AU Presidents agreed with this proposal. CM asked who would be conducting interviews; would it need to be a more neutral panel not just Sports & Societies Co-ordinator and VPS. DGC clarified that interview process would follow standard HUU HR procedures.

VPA reiterated her amendment to mandate Student Officers to discuss who should be paid within HUU, but still implement the appointment of roles rather than election, potentially aided by the creation of a volunteer agreement.

With 14 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 1 abstention, the motion as amended passed.

6.2 M.1617-24 Motion to amend SOs 1001, 2001, 3001, 4001, and 5001 relating to the Student Officers (Paper H)

VPA explained the proposed motion and the reasons behind it. Jennie Watts (JW) said the Officer-elects did not approve the proposed name change of the VPWC role to Equality & Community; JW noted that she had issues with the equality title as welfare covered a wider range of issues than just equality and liberation and proposed that there should be more discussion about the title of the role. KH pointed out that there are welfare officers now in the sports zone, and that students view them as a support or counselling role which they are not; these issues are not the job of an officer, hence the new title would be representative of the role. JW agreed that it is not a counselling role, but reiterated that there must be more discussion within the zone to change the name of the role and zone. VPWC withdrew support from his own motion. VPE said the word 'welfare' must be removed, KH agreed. JW proposed an amendment for the next officer team to review and change the role title in the upcoming academic year. VPE said this would be too late for 2017/18 as marketing material would show the title. CR asked where LINKS would fit in; VPA responded that they are part of the community; CR noted that LINKS do wider welfare work. VPE highlighted that they are not counsellors. CM proposed an *amendment to remove the name change to Equality & Community from Resolves and instead launch a wider consultation on the role title led by the incoming Student Officer Team*. The amendment was seconded.

With 12 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and 2 abstentions the amendment passed.

With 13 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and 1 abstention the motion as amended passed.

6.3 M.1617-21 Motion to amend SO 8007 Complaints Procedure (Paper E)

VPA explained the motion and updates to the complaints procedure. UC had no questions on the motion.

With 13 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 2 abstentions, the motion passed.

6.4 M.1617-23 Motion to give the Trans Representative on the LGBT+ Committee a vote on Union Council and on the Welfare and Community Zone (Paper G)

Connor Massey (CM) explained the motion, adding that this position would continue to be elected at an AGM not by a campus wide ballot.

Edward Towers (ET) noted that the LGBT+ Officers represent the whole community and queried why those roles existed if they were not representative of all LGBT+ issues; did not believe it should be divided up. CM responded that this was what the trans* community wanted to ensure their specific issues would not be overlooked. ET noted that he had received concerns from a trans* student regarding the proposed motion. CM responded that this would be additional representation. VPA highlighted that this was what students asked for and therefore representative. Student noted that VPS had to represent all of sport, therefore how could the additional role be defended when the sport roles are different too; VPA clarified Student Officers have no vote on UC.

VPE raised concerns about representation for representation's sake as any zone could say a similar thing to gain more votes and have additional roles; questioned whether this undermined the LGBT+ Officers, noted it would make UC bigger and was unnecessary. VPSc responded that there are some cases where it may feel like that was true, however liberation groups should be an exception to the rule, and it would account for differing views to represent other issues. VPA added that trans* students were underrepresented and that this proposal would help to alleviate that.

ET raised concerns he had received from a trans* student, and queried again why there were two LGBT+ Officers if not all areas were accurately represented. He further noted that elevating the role of the trans* rep to a voting member on UC would change the dynamic within the LGBT+ committee as there are the co-officers who vote and represent the community by raising their concerns, but one group would be elevated above the rest, which could be divisive between the officers, and should not happen as the two roles should maintain unity. CM responded that it was originally created as a dual role to divide the work; it was not representation for representation's sake, but the representative element was very important.

Chair asked UC to move to a vote.

With 9 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and 4 abstentions, the motion passed.

6.5 M.1617-25 Motion to allow members of Union Council to vote via proxy at Union Council (Paper I)

VPS explained the motion was to ensure UC was quorate by the introduction of proxy votes.

Danielle Griffin (DG) queried whether the person attending on someone's behalf would be random or from the same zone. DG proposed an amendment for the rep to be from the same zone; amendment seconded. ET asked how this would work for the Governance zone; VPA suggested adding the word "normally", then someone else could attend.

Amendment: The person holding a proxy-vote at Union Council should be from the same zone as the member whose proxy they have.

With 14 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 1 abstention, the amendment passed.

VPE questioned whether this could mean that someone was attending who had not been elected; VPA said they would reflect the vote of the person who had given the proxy. VPS asked whether this would create an excuse for UC members not to attend. JP asked if there was a limit on the number of votes any one member could hold. JP proposed an amendment for the maximum number of votes to be two, i.e. their own vote, plus 1 by proxy. KH said the trust would then have to be there, did not agree with UC officers having two votes. KH raised concerns that some may not understand what happens at UC. VPE added that this would be changing democracy. VPWC agreed that the motion defied democracy, as elected representatives would send someone in their stead.

Rebecca Devine highlighted that she would read a motion and form an opinion but may change her view based on the discussion and amendments. She further noted that elected representatives were elected for a reason and expected to attend; questioned why someone would come to the meeting if they could send someone else in their place.

CM agreed that elected reps should attend and suggested imposing a limit on how many proxy votes UC members can have per year. CM added that there have been trust issues and queried whether the chair should be shown paper/electronic submissions of the proxy votes. DG suggested letting DGC know about the votes for and against; VPE agreed this would be similar to postal vote. VPA asked whether votes could be emailed. DGC confirmed.

JP withdraws his amendment on the number of votes UC members may hold.

DG proposed an amendment that maximum twice a year, with good reason, UC members can email DGC explicit instructions on their votes, with no amendments; any amendments during the meeting turn vote into an abstention; amendment seconded.

Amendment:

If a member of Union Council cannot attend a meeting and wishes to give their proxy to another voting member, they must email the Democracy & Governance Co-ordinator their apology with good reason and designated proxy by noon on the day of the Union Council meeting. Explicit voting instructions must be included and are only accepted if received by the Democracy & Governance Co-ordinator in writing in advance of the meeting. If motions are amended during the meeting, the proxy-vote is automatically counted as a vote in abstention.

Union Council members can only use the option of proxy-voting twice per academic year.

With 11 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and 3 abstentions, the amendment passed.

With 13 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and 0 abstentions, the motion as amended passed.

6.6 M.1617-26 Motion to amend SO 2008 RAG (Paper J)¹

DG explained the reasons for the SO amendments; incoming and outgoing RAG committees have approved the changes. No questions were received.

¹ There has been no Activities zone meeting to approve this motion prior to Union Council.

With 14 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 1 abstention, the motion passed.

6.7 M.1617-27 Motion to remove the Course Rep Forum Representative positions (Paper K)

VPE explained the reasons for the change, adding the roles were not representative.

With 12 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 3 abstentions, the motion passed.

7. Student Officer Reports (Paper C)

a. VP Scarborough

VPSc worked with Health Care students to bring feedback to the Campus Management Team. The Easter Family Fun Day took place and was well received. VPSc attended the Exploring Equality and Diversity Themes event and is working on analysing results from the Liberation Education survey. VPSc has also started work on Mental Health Awareness Day and is making progress on the PTO training programme.

b. VP Activities

VPA report taken as read, the room bookings meeting has been postponed again. VPA added that University of Sanctuary is happening and reminded attendees to register to vote in the General Election. CM asked for more information on the sanctuary event; VPA said Hull is becoming a city for sanctuary due to refugee involvement, University would then help students who are asylum seekers to ensure they can get fee waivers and bursaries; they would still need the grades to get in, just to remove funding gap. MC asked at what point room bookings will be escalated with the University since they keep moving the meetings; VPA said it has gone to the University Registrar & Secretary. VPE added that the new Vice-Chancellor would be the next stage once they start. The meeting had been postponed by room bookings.

VPA promoted the elections debate with Hull North MP candidates on Wednesday evening.

c. VP Education

VPE pointed out that the first recommendations of the Student Voice Project have now been approved; SSCs have been reviewed and renamed as forums to make them more representative; processes have been changed and streamlined, the code of practice will be updated over the summer to reflect these changes. The project also suggested a brand to include all elements of student voice – surveys etc. Technology is the third element; new ways to gain feedback online to capture any issues will be reviewed by the working group next year.

JP asked about study abroad guidance, VPE said it is being developed into a code of practice.

VPSc queried the new technology proposed by the university; VPE said it would be a tool to capture concerns and issues on any topic.

d. VP Welfare & Community

VPWC took report as read, added that banana costumes have arrived and asked people to support his initiative of handing out exam packs. VPWC is working on a report on the fit to sit policy and welcomed feedback from students. Edward Towers noted that he has written a lengthy document on this already which he will send to VPWC.

e. VP Sport

VPS added that the planned Easter blog became a number of social media posts due to availability. Secondly, O'Neill's is the new kit supplier, negotiations are ongoing; will keep UC updated.

8. Zone Reports (Paper D)

a. Scarborough Executive Committee

The committee have helped with liberation campaigns, events and gathering nominations for awards.

b. Governance Zone

CDO is working on mitigating circumstances campaign, awaiting responses from Faculty hubs. CFS has reviewed budget up until 1st April 2017.

c. Activities Zone (no report submitted)

RAG chair has a new committee, handover starts this week. Jailbreak health and safety briefing is taking place tomorrow, one team have already broken their target.

VPA noted that there are a lot of society awards nominations; tickets currently on sale.

Media alumni day went well. New station managers and editors have also been appointed for next year.

MC added that Chair SEC has stepped down; key positions for next year were filled at the SEC AGM. Vacant positions will be reviewed before they are elected.

d. Education Zone (no report submitted)

VPE noted that the SLTAs evening happened and went well.

Rebecca Devine held a PGR forum that was well attended, students voiced their concerns, minutes will go to PVC for R&E.

e. Welfare & Community Zone (no report submitted)

LGBT+ is hosting a Eurovision party next weekend. The last committee meeting is taking place on Friday, handover to follow. CM noted that the work with the AU will continue into next year.

CM further explained that a number of students had approached the group who have had issues with their accommodation and housemate problems; there will be a meeting with accommodation to include the question 'would you like to be in an LGBT+ friendly household' on the accommodation form. VPE asked how this would be monitored. ET asked whether students may be put off answering that question if they are completing it with their parents. CM welcomed any ideas or suggestions. VPA noted that it is important that the wording is correct. JP suggested having contact details for amending form post-submission.

UK pride event being held in July with involvement of HUU and University; there will be t-shirts etc. and participation in the parade.

f. Sports Zone

Taken as read, no questions received.

9. AOB

VPS announced that Millie Rowbotham has been awarded Volunteer of the Month for April. VPSc added that Becky Potter received Volunteer of the Month in March.

This was the last Union Council meeting for the academic year 2016/17.
The next meeting is due to take place on Monday, 16 October 2017.