

Governance Zone
14 October 2016, 11am
Meeting Room 2

Position	Name	14.10.16	27.10.16				
Environment & Ethics Officer	Aona Stuart						
Campaigns & Democracy Officer	Edward Towers						
Chair Union Council		N/A					
Chair Education Zone		N/A					
Chair Welfare & Community Zone		N/A					
Chair Activities Zone	Chris Knott						
Chair Sport Zone		N/A					
Councillor for Scrutiny	Oliver Taylor						
Councillor for Scrutiny	Christian Calgie	N/A					
President	Matt Evans						

Absent	
Apologies	
Present	

In attendance: Tania Struetzel, Democracy & Governance Co-ordinator

1. Welcome & Introduction

2. Apologies

None received.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising

None.

4. Election of Chair

Oliver Taylor unanimously elected as Chair of the zone.

5. Reports

A. President

The report was taken as read.

Updates on the report:

NUS National Ballot: The Officer Team has signed the NUS National Ballot along with 40 other Students' Unions calling for an equality impact assessment on the boycott of the NSS.

President attended NUS Transformation meeting in London on Monday, 10 October to provide feedback on NUS' democratic structures and feed into NUS' democratic review.

VC Recruitment: In discussion with the University about how to involve students in the process.

Questions on the report:

Oliver Taylor queried the re-affiliation of Lincoln SU last week and Matt Evans' stance on this. Matt Evans explained the context of the disaffiliation and re-affiliation campaigns.

B. Campaigns Officer

The University has changed its mitigating circumstances policy so that students cannot submit mitigating circumstances any more once they have submitted the assessment/sat an examination. This creates uncertainty for students waiting to hear back whether their mitigating circumstances have been approved prior to the assessment taking place/being due. In Philosophy, if students have not submitted 50% of the assessments in a module, they are not eligible for resits.

Action: Matt Evans to take up with VP Education and report on progress at next meeting.

C. Environment & Ethics Officer

Queried whether the University is an accredited FairTrade provider and if a steering group is already in place.

Action: Matt Evans to follow up on whether the University has a Fair Trade policy and to progress with AS.

AS to be included in Green Impact initiative.

Action: ME to progress.

AS would like to extend World Earth Day (22 April 2017) into a week of events.

Action: AS to pull together a plan of events for the next meeting.

D. Councillor for Scrutiny

Has been meeting with Matt Evans on a regular basis to discuss plans and objectives for the year.

Raised concerns about uncontested part-time Officer positions in the by-elections and how students can be engaged better.

Matt Evans commented that the CfS training has been reviewed and will be refreshed for this year.

6. AOB: Discussion about HUU's democratic structures

Matt Evans asked the zone members whether HUU represents students. OT replied that HUU does represent students but the question is how HUU represents them. OT suggested to trial other methods of engaging students that are not in elected positions about important issues.

Matt Evans queried whether Union Council is the best way to represent students. ET commented that he could not think of another way how to make decisions. ME asked whether we sufficiently support student activities through UC. OT pointed out that zone meetings are often more productive places to discuss projects and issues pertinent to these groups. He added that scrutiny is also needed for the part-time Officers and zones through another panel.

Matt Evans questioned how HUU can represent all 17,000 students through other ways than UC. ET commented that it would require more proactiveness by elected part-time and full-time Officers because most students do not care enough to get involved in elections to change policies. ET also pointed out that students do not come to their elected Officers to raise concerns.

Matt Evans questioned if HUU makes it too hard for students to engage. ET believed this only to be part of the problem as resources are available on the website to get in touch with Officers etc and that it might be more of a structural problem.

Matt Evans asked all zone members what the one thing is they would like to change about HUU.

AS remembered that in her first year she was invited to a political debate after discussing elections with the Student Officer Team. She suggested to host more events about topics of national/societal interest.

OT suggested to have more events showcasing what HUU does with regard to representation and educate students about what the Students' Union does.

ET suggested to engage in a more proactive way with students so they feel encouraged to come to the Union/Officers with any issues.

Matt Evans asked zone members if they think HUU is relevant to its members.

ET agreed with this as HUU provides many services that are important to students, however, most students do not realise this.

ME asked whether zone members think that it is easy to affect change within HUU. ET replied that it is very difficult for non-engaged students to find out about all the procedures and policies needed to affect change. He suggested to increase visibility of full-time Officers at the beginning of the year.

Recommended Tedx Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJy8vTu66tE>

7. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 27 October 2016, 1-2pm, Venue TBC