

**HULL UNIVERSITY
UNION**

UNION COUNCIL – Monday, 27 March 2017 – Hull Campus, 6:30pm, Meeting Room 1

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			
Welfare & Community Zone					
Oliver	Woodroffe	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			
Carla	Busuttil	Course Rep Forum Rep			N/A
Activities Zone					
Christopher	Knott	Chair SEC			
		Media Representative	N/A	Henry Smith	
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			
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)

Craig Beckett, Administration Co-ordinator (AC, Minutes)

Andrew Costigan, LINKS

Rory Hamill, LINKS

Spencer Ridd, LINKS

Connor Robinson, LINKS

Ruth Williams, Environment & Ethics Officer-elect

Alexia Auger, LGBT+ Officer –elect

Jennie Watts, VP Welfare & Community-elect

1. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda adopted.

2. Resignations (to note)

Joshua McMullan, Chair Union Council
Rayne Goddard, LGBT+ Co-Officer
Ben Howard, Councillor for Scrutiny Education Zone

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. Board of Trustee Minutes 15 December 2016 (to note) (Paper B)

No questions received. December minutes brought to this Union Council as Board of Trustee minutes only approved at last board meeting in February.

6. Student Officer Reports (Paper C)

- a. VP Scarborough

VPSc updated Union Council on the Scarborough Campaigns Officer's nature therapy project and plans to distribute free plants.

VPSc discussed meetings he has had with both the Centre for Environmental and Marine Sciences (dissertation help for students) and the Associate Dean Student Experience at FACE (academic support tutors).

VPSc continuing his work on a supplement for the next edition of the HullFire which will focus on the history of the Scarborough campus and include interviews with former staff and student officers.

No questions received.

- b. VP Activities

VPA report taken as read.

VPA is continuing with her longstanding project to improve the room bookings system. VPA has produced a 12 page report to be discussed at a meeting with the University Registrar on Thursday.

No questions received.

- c. VP Education (no report submitted)
VPE not in attendance.
- d. VP Welfare & Community (no report submitted)
VPWC provided a verbal report.

VPWC has completed work on the Community Handbook and has ideas/events prepared for the stressful examination period.

VPWC confirmed to Union Council an event bringing Guide Dog puppies to the Union building has been arranged.

- e. VP Sport (no report submitted)
VPS not in attendance.

7. Zone Reports (Paper D)

- a. Scarborough Executive Committee
Sports Officer has secured funding for dive training to be provided to CEMS students.

Campaigns Officer has arranged an extra drop in dodge ball session for Monday afternoons.

Committee has successfully negotiated discounts for local theatre and cinema and raised money for St Catherine's with a 'Bring a pound to work day.'

- b. Governance Zone
Campaigns & Democracy Officer has met with VPE to discuss mitigating circumstances policy.

Environment & Ethics Officer continuing to work on plans for Green Week to coincide with World Earth Day.

Zone has been looking at ways it can work more effectively; methods and structure.

In response to question asking how it can work more effectively VPSc highlighted two aspects the Governance zone had identified. Firstly the zone will look to be more strategy focused and help to shape the direction of the organisation. Secondly the Governance zone will look at ways to interlink and support the other zones, creating a network between officers.

- c. Activities Zone (no report submitted)
VPA provided a verbal update.

VPA has received numerous grant forms to help fund trips and activities for societies. AGM meetings are continuing with societies choosing their new committees for next year.

Big Geek Quiz downstairs in Johnny Mac has been organised by societies.

RAG held a charity showcase last week with societies and sports teams getting involved. New Chair of RAG has been elected and the Jailbreak info meeting is to be held tomorrow evening.

New edition of HullFire has been printed and is the largest edition to date with 24 pages. Student Radio have now appointed two engineers to their team. TV are attending NASTA this weekend.

- d. Education Zone (no report submitted)
Education Zone have completed shortlisting for SLTAs and nominations have been publicised. SLTA event is to be held Friday 5 May.

Councillor for Scrutiny has a meeting scheduled with VPE to discuss zone budget.

- e. Sport Zone (no report submitted)
No representative in attendance.

- f. Welfare & Community Zone (no report submitted)
Women's Officer provided feedback on event held to celebrate International Women's Day.

LGBT+ have held a positive forum to discuss improvement of the committee and considered criticism received. LGBT+ Officer currently working with UK Pride on a week-long event programme to be held in July. The success of LGBT+ sport events was highlighted and AGM is scheduled for tomorrow night.

LINKS have held their AGM and members of new committee attending Union Council tonight. Raised £135 through a bake sale today and recently had a weekend away focusing on training and team building.

- 8. Breakout groups: Part-time Officer training
VPSc asked members of Union Council to consider how part-time Officer training could be improved.

9. Societies for Ratification
Chair asked whether there were any objections to ratifying the listed societies (Kuwaiti Society & Ecology Society).

Both societies were ratified with no objections raised.

10. New General Business

10.1 M.1617-17 Motion to prevent future use of live reindeer at HUU Christmas events (Paper E)

Laura Shand introduced the motion to prevent use of live reindeer at future HUU Christmas events and explained the reasons behind her motion. It was highlighted that reindeer are not naturally sociable animals and find the human interaction stressful. The cramped, noisy conditions at events and the travelling to events have an additional negative effect on the reindeer's wellbeing.

The popularity of reindeer at Christmas events has increased the number of farmers keeping reindeer, however this is often with little experience of reindeer welfare. As a result reindeer are often kept alone instead of in a herd, provided with the wrong food leading to malnutrition or kept in huts instead of roaming free.

Proposer also expressed view that the demand for reindeer has led to reindeer farms being set up in Scandinavia, where wild reindeer are captured and bred for UK Christmas events.

No initial questions, however Chair asked Union Council to discuss the motion.

Criticism of farmers was queried by Councillor for Scrutiny of the Education Zone, as in her experience farmers do care greatly for their animals with them being a source of income. Proposer clarified that she was referring to farmers who were looking to take advantage of the business created by reindeer, despite having little knowledge of how to care for reindeer, not farmers in general.

Question asked whether it would be better to pass a motion requiring the company who provide the reindeer be reputable than a total ban. Union Council members agreed this would not solve the animal welfare issues caused by the stress of being at the event.

Union Council discussed how awareness of reindeer exploitation could be highlighted at future events, whether money raised alongside the Christmas Fair could go towards reindeer welfare or if limiting the time the reindeer were available for human interaction would be an alternative option.

Union Council expressed opinions that none of the above would be a solution to the animal welfare issues caused and a question was raised if reindeer were needed at the event at all.

Discussions continued around animal welfare and whether this should apply to all animals at the Union. Council in agreement that the welfare issues in this case were specific to reindeer only.

Campaigns & Democracy Officer proposed an amendment to the motion to have no live reindeer at the next event and have a campaign around reindeer welfare, potentially with cardboard reindeer.

With 7 in the affirmative, 4 in the negative and 7 abstentions, the amendment falls.

A second amendment was proposed requiring a veterinary check for approval of reindeer/supplier before use at HUU event.

Union Council debated this suggestion and highlighted the additional expense this would create. The usefulness of a check was also questioned and how this would prevent the stress of transportation on the reindeer.

With 3 in the affirmative, 10 in the negative and 5 abstentions, the amendment falls.

Union Council then moved to vote on the original motion.

With 8 in the affirmative, 3 in the negative and 7 abstentions, the motion passed.

10.2 M.1617-18 Motion to mandate Union Council members to have compulsory engagement time (Paper F)

Scarborough Campaigns Officer introduced motion and explained that it had been brought as many students feel out of touch with the Union and staff. Motion would increase student engagement time and benefit Union by improving awareness of students' views/ideas for change.

Questions were asked regarding how the proposal would be policed and if specific hours and a designated office would be needed. Explanation given that motion was non-specific to allow personal choice on method of engagement by officer; example given was that PTO could get involved with Student Sofa on a particular week. Hours of engagement would be reported in Union Council reports and cross checked for accountability.

Query raised regarding the requirement for 10% of hours and whether this was unfair for part-time officers. VPA clarified hours would be dependent on the amount of time each officer is required to work per week and not on a full working week. Percentage has been suggested to place an equivalent requirement on both part-time and full-time officers.

Scarborough Campaigns Officer clarified that requirement for engagement would not include Councillor for Scrutiny roles. Explanation given that if a PTO could not complete student engagement, due to a placement or assignment, this would be noted.

Clarification was provided to Union Council that availability of the officer was key and if no students attended engagement sessions the time offered would be included regardless.

It was reiterated that the purpose of the motion was to ensure that officers are being held to account.

With 16 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and 0 abstentions, the motion passed.

10.3 M.1617-19 Motion to update the HUU Student Event External Speaker Policy (Paper G)

VPA explained External Speaker Policy has been amended after it was initially brought to Union Council for consideration last year. Motion to put amendments into place and make policy clearer and easier for students.

With 17 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 1 abstention, the motion passes.

10.4 M.1617-20 Motion to change the Bye-Laws to enable zone committees to approve Standing Order changes that only affect that zone (Paper H)

VPA presented the motion to Union Council and highlighted the purpose was to reduce the amount of time taken up by Standing Orders at Union Council.

With 18 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions, the motion passed.

11. AOB

None reported.

Date of next meeting: Monday, 8 May 2017, 6.30pm, Scarborough Campus.