

HULL UNIVERSITY UNION

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES Monday 4 December 2017 – Meeting Room 1, 6:30pm

Attendance

First Name	Surname	Position	Attendance		
			16 th Oct	13 th Nov	4 th Dec
Student Officers					
Osaro	Otobo	President			
Salman	Anwar	Education Officer			
Jennie	Watts	Welfare & Community Officer			
Caitlin	O'Neill	Sports Officer			
Governance Zone					
Kym	Cardona	Councillor for Scrutiny			
Welfare & Community Zone					
Tom	Barnes	LINKS Officer			Thomas Gwilliam
Connor	Massey	LGBT+ Officer (Role share)			
Georgina	Baulch				
Hayley	Hatton	Trans* Representative			
Maria	Majekodunmi	BAME Officer			
Jacqueline	Gomes-Neves	Women's Officer			
Jessica	Clunan	Disabled Students Officer			
Ruth	Williams	Environment and Ethics Officer			
Jordan	Navarro	Councillor for Scrutiny – Welfare & Community			
Education Zone					
Ashley	Pattison	Mature Students Officer			
Adam	Clifton	Part-time Students Officer			
Lauren	Williams	Postgraduate Taught Officer			
Rebecca	Devine	Postgraduate Research Officer			

Stefan	Caluser	International Students Officer			
Steven	Storey	Faculty Rep Faculty of Science and Engineering			
Katie	Hobson	Faculty Rep FACE			
Amelia	Smallwood	Faculty Rep Faculty of Health Sciences			
Michael	Howe	Faculty Rep Business, Law and Politics	N/A		
Activities Zone					
Rayne	Goddard	Chair SEC			
		Media Representative		Megan Hammell	Connor
Tom	McNamara	Chair RAG			
Katie	Wilkie	Societies Council Rep	N/A		
Alex	Fynney	Councillor for Scrutiny - Activities			Resigned
Sports Zone					
Natasha	Wilson	AU Secretary & Communications Officer			
Maisie	Loggie	AU Members' Rep			
Nick	Wright	AU Presidents' Rep			

In attendance:

Tania Struetzel, Democracy & Governance Co-ordinator (DGC)

Emily Normington, Executive Support Co-ordinator (ESC, Minutes)

1. Adoption of the agenda
The agenda was adopted. CM thanked DGC for her organisation of Union Council during her time at HUU.

2. Apologies for absence (for acceptance)
Apologies were noted from Kym Cardona, Hayley Hatton, Ashley Pattison, Adam Clifton, Rebecca Devine, Katie Hobson, Michael Howe and Tom McNamara.

It was noted that Alex Fynney has resigned from the Councillor for Scrutiny role in the Activities Zone.

3. Minutes from previous meeting (to note) (Paper A)
The minutes were approved as a correct record.

4. Breakout groups led by Connor Massey and Ruth Williams on reward & recognition of part-time Officers
Postponed until the next meeting.

5. Breakout groups led by Jennie Watts on [Zero Tolerance Policy](#)
Postponed until the next meeting.

6. Student Officer Reports – Objective updates (Paper B)
 - 6.1 President
Report taken as read, no questions were raised.

 - 6.2 Education Officer
SA updated on the team objective, the student officer team are reviewing their interaction with students within their assigned faculty. The team are now liaising with intramural sports teams and academic societies. SA welcomed any ideas from Union Council on how engagement could be improved.

SA report taken as read, no questions were raised.

 - 6.3 Welfare & Community Officer
Report taken as read; JW updated on a new consent campaign which will be launched and include blunt messages and statistics, RG raised concerns around blunt messages and students with PTSD. JW advised that this will be considered, with messages being along the lines of 'did you know there are X number of sexual assault victims in Hull'.

JW presented detail of the Mental Health campaign at University Council and received positive feedback from the University.

6.4 Sports Officer (no report submitted)

CON has a new objective linked to club debt, CON is researching how much clubs spend on travel and external facility hire per year. A survey will be circulated to discover clubs fees and expenditure, CON will create a report for the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee once the research is complete.

7. Zone reports (Paper C)

7.1 Governance Zone

Report taken as read, OO highlighted that planning for elections has begun. Marketing and engagement are being reviewed to ensure positions are contested and that students understand the benefits of becoming a Part-Time Officer.

OO and JW are working with the University on the Race Equality Charter. OO promoted a link for students to register their interest in participating in focus groups as part of the project.

OO is involved with the CEO recruitment process, following the [resignation announcement](#) of current CEO, Jackie Berry.

7.2 Education Zone

SA highlighted the engagement reach of faculty reps with course reps and students. The international student meet and greet went well, both PG Officers are working on improving the PG student experience.

7.3 Activities Zone

Report taken as read.

7.4 Welfare & Community Zone

Members of the BAME committee will be attending an anti-slavery march in London on 9th December.

JN has been working on conflict resolution for societies and liberation campaigns, to reduce miscommunication and address behaviour and etiquette. JN also requested feedback from zone members; GB asked for this to be requested via the zone Facebook group as a reminder.

7.5 Sports Zone (no report submitted)

ML said AU Ball was a success, raising £100 for charity in the raffle. Work is ongoing to reduce club debt, with several clubs now having a finance plan in place. Filming for the Varsity video is now complete, the video will be launched in February 2018. The AU Exec are also promoting club events and fixtures to improve attendance, in addition to relaunching the AU Facebook page.

8. Hull University Union Independent Student Activities (for approval)
(Paper D)

OO presented the document for approval and gave an overview of the motion.

RW liked the idea and asked for clarity on who would be responsible if an issue or incident happened at an independent event; OO clarified that HUU would not be liable for independent events.

The motion was passed with 14 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 0 abstentions.

9. New General Business

9.1 M.1718-3 Motion to change the recruitment process for School and Faculty Representatives (Paper E)

SA presented the motion, highlighting the proposed change to appoint and pay Faculty Reps following an interview process, and for School Reps to become Subject Group Reps, who nominate themselves, as currently used for Course Reps. SA advised that the amends followed feedback from the by-elections report and student consultation, as many of these roles are co-opted after the elections.

SA provided additional background context for the Faculty Rep role, which has an expected time commitment of around 10 hours per week. Nick Wright (NWr) queried how the process would run if the role only had one applicant; SA said candidates would only be appointed if they met the required standards at interview. Natasha Wilson (NWi) asked who would be on the interview panel, DGC said other Students' unions include the Education Officer, outgoing Faculty Rep and a member of staff. JN asked if interviewing would lead to bias when appointing students, JC believes an appointment process would reduce bias during the appointments process. OO added that popularity and lobbying of friendship groups is more prominent as part of an election, whereas an interview panel would be impartial.

SS proposed an amendment to ensure appointed Faculty Reps could retain voting rights at Union Council and Course Rep Forum. SS added it is crucial that the rep maintains their representation at these meetings and can act on behalf of students. JC seconded the amendment.

RW noted that appointed reps would not have a democratic mandate to represent students. SS stated that the role represents the voice of students within the faculty at University meetings. RG and ML did not see why appointment of a position would lead to the loss of voting rights; DGC advised that some Students' unions feel the democratic mandate cannot be upheld if a role is appointed. NWr queried why the

Student Officer team do not have a vote at Union Council; DGC clarified whilst Student Officers do not have a vote at HUU, some Students' Unions do allow this. CT said media roles are appointed, but are still voting members of Union Council.

GB did not believe reps should receive a financial incentive for their role, SA said SVOT assistants are paid for doing a similar role. RG suggested offering a reward via HUU vouchers or other incentives, as many part time officers work a lot of hours. SS said Faculty Rep roles require understanding of several University policies, codes of conduct and services to effectively help students.

ML asked how reimbursement rates would be set, SA said reps would have a contract containing this detail. OO reminded Union Council that they have the power to bring motions to the meeting if they wish. SA clarified that academic representation is a priority for both the Student Officer team and Trustee Board.

The amendment to enable Faculty Reps to vote at Union Council and Course Rep Forum passed, with 12 votes in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

Union Council then voted in parts. For a change to the appointment of Faculty Reps, 13 were in favour, 2 were against and there were no abstentions. This part of the motion passed.

For the vote on whether Faculty Reps should receive payment for their role, 4 voted in favour, 6 voted against and 5 abstentions. The payment of Faculty Reps failed.

The motion passed with an amendment to retain voting rights, with no payments to be made to Faculty Reps.

RG proposed amending the name of School Reps from Subject Group Rep to Subject Rep, SS and AS seconded this amendment. Union Council voted on the amendment with 14 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

The part of the motion to change the title of School Reps to Subject Reps and to use a nomination process for these roles passed with 15 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

9.2 M.1718-4 Motion to amend Standing Order 8012 Governing the Discipline of HUU Members (Paper F)

OO presented the motion and welcomed questions. RG asked whether the HUU code is stricter than the University disciplinary code; OO clarified that the HUU policy only covers HUU events and activity within its premises. CT asked if the policy applies to HUU staff; DGC clarified

that staff have a separate disciplinary procedure within the HR documents and that this policy applies solely to HUU members.

The motion was passed with 14 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

10. Your Ideas (if applicable)

Not applicable.

11. AOB

JN raised concerns over an external speaker event taking place later in the week with Peter Tatchell and some of the controversial opinions held by Peter Tatchell. RG said it is a society event which has adhered to the External Speaker policy and has been approved. DGC confirmed that the current policy was approved by Union Council last year; HUSAH followed the process correctly, following research HUU and the University assess whether the speaker should be approved and whether any restrictions are required. As part of the process, the speaker has been approved, with observers from HUU and the University in attendance. The process is thorough and covers free speech on campus. DGC noted that the No Platform Policy is currently being reviewed. OO said students who disagree with Peter Tatchell's views are welcome to attend the event. DGC confirmed that the event would be going ahead as planned.

Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of Union Council will take place on Monday, 19 February, 6.30pm,
Meeting Room 1.