

HULL UNIVERSITY UNION

UNION COUNCIL –Monday, 14 December 2015 – Hull Campus, 6:30pm

MINUTES

Please note: all amendments that took place during the meeting with regard to position titles or individuals have been reflected in the membership.

Membership

First Name	Surname	Position	Attendance		
			19 th Oct	30 th Nov	14 th Dec
Chubike	Okide	President	✓	✓	✓
Matthew	Evans	VP Education	✓	✓	✓
Ashleigh	Davies	VP Welfare & Community	✓	✓	✓
Kathy	Brook	VP Activities	✓	Apols	✓
Gurmok	Sanghera	VP Sport	✓	✓	✓
Simon	Hernandez	VP Scarborough	✓	✓	✓
Governance Zone					
Jamie	Boote	Campaigns and Democracy Officer	✓	Apols	
Paul Henry	Blackburn	Environment and Ethics Officer	✓	Absent	Apols
Welfare & Community Zone					
Bethany	Walton	LINKS Officer	Apols	Apols	Apols
Katie Marian	Bowden	LGBT+ Officer (Role share)	✓	Apols	✓
Liam	Crosby		✓	Apols	Apols
Adeloa	Fadipe	Black Asian Minority and Ethnic (BAME) Officer	✓	Apols	✓
Emily	Bolt	Women's Officer	✓	Apols	✓
Daryl	Jones	Disabled Students Officer	n/a	Apols	✓
Education Zone					
Philip Yelland		Mature Students Officer	n/a	Apols	✓
Moipone Mokone		Part-time students Officer	n/a	Apols	Apols
Robert Champion		Postgraduate Taught Officer	n/a	Apols	✓
Mohammad Al		Postgraduate	n/a	✓	Apols

Khaldy		Research Officer			
VACANT		Faculty Co-ordinator Hull York Medical School			
Declan	Whiting	Faculty Co-ordinator Faculty of Science and Engineering	✓	Absent	✓
Daniel	Walker	Faculty Co-ordinator Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	✓	Apols	Apols
Victoria	Welborn	Faculty Co-ordinator Faculty of Health and Social Care	✓	✓	✓
Elizabeth	Barracough	Faculty Co-ordinator Faculty of Education	✓	Apols	Apols
Matthew	Thorneycroft	Faculty Co-ordinator Hull University Business School	✓	✓	✓
Kym	Cardona	Academic Council Rep	n/a	✓	✓
Eunice	Owusu-Kyereh	Academic Council Rep	n/a	Apols	✓
Activities Zone					
Elizabeth	Palmer	Chair SEC	✓	Apols	✓
Viktorija	Ivanova	Chair ISA	✓	Apols	✓
Nathan	Thompson	Chair Media	Apols	Apols	✓
Joshua	McMullan	Chair RAG	✓	Apols	✓
Scarborough					
Tabitha Elizabeth	Nixon	Scarborough Campaigns Officer	Apols	✓	✓
James	Verity	Scarborough Community Officer	✓	✓	✓
Nathan	Alcock	Scarborough Sports Officer	n/a	n/a	✓
Lana	Goldthorpe	Scarborough Welfare Officer	✓	Apols	✓
Gavin	Straine- Francis	Scarborough Education Officer	✓	Apols	✓
Charlotte	Reeve	Scarborough Equality and Diversity Officer	n/a	✓	✓
Sports Zone					
Callum	Fraser- Hurley	AU Tour Officer	✓	Absent	Absent
Sam	Craig	AU Kit & Equipment Officer	✓	✓	Apols
Benjamin	Rae	AU BUCS Officer	✓	Absent	Absent
Laura	Huntenburg	AU Participation &		Apols	✓

		Inclusivity Officer	✓		
Grace Lucy	James	AU Secretary & Communications Officer	✓	Apols	✓
Sam	Walker	AU Varsity & Events Officer	✓	Apols	Apols
Charlotte	Constable	Councillor for Scrutiny - Education	✓	✓	✓
Oliver Edward	Taylor	Councillor for Scrutiny – Activities	✓	Apols	✓
David Andrew	Gamble	Councillor for Scrutiny – Welfare & Community	✓	Absent	✓
Padraig Sean	Curran	Councillor for Scrutiny – Sport	✓	Absent	Absent
Nadia	Hassani	Councillor for Scrutiny	n/a	Absent	✓
VACANT		Councillor for Scrutiny	n/a	n/a	
VACANT		Councillor for Scrutiny	n/a	n/a	
VACANT		Councillor for Scrutiny	n/a	n/a	

In attendance:

Liz Pearce – Membership Services Director (Secretary)

Konstantinos Xipolitos

Jack Forrester

Josh Baker

Kodi Maier

Lewis Worrow

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November were approved, the meeting was inquorate and matters were discussed and approved in principle.

2. Matters Arising

i) Minute 4: Motion from the Disabled Students Officer– amendment to 5007

The motion to replace the role of ‘Social Secretary’ with the role of Mental Health Liaison Officer, approved in principle at the November meeting was endorsed.

ii) Minute 5: Secondment of Scarborough Sports Officer

The secondment of Nathan Alcock to the position of Scarborough Sports Officer, ratified in principle at the November meeting, was endorsed.

iii) Minute 6: Ratification of Societies

The following societies were considered for ratification at the November meeting and endorsed:

- Board Games Society
- God, Philosophy & Science Society

It was noted that the Jewish Society had been included in the papers in error. The group currently do have sufficient members to be ratified.

iv) Minute 10i: Union Council Communications

Further to discussion at the November meeting it was agreed that a Union Council Facebook group would be established. The group would act as an additional channel of information about

the dates of meetings and availability of documentation. Email and the HUU website would still be used to ensure that all student have access.

It was confirmed that the group would only be used to post information and reminders about Union Council matters and would not be used to promote or market other services or products.

Action: Union Council Facebook group to be established and members added.

v) Minute 10li: Attendance

Members were reminded that the Union Council Standing Orders state that “any member of Council who is absent from any two meetings of Council in a semester without having given notice of apology shall be deemed to have resigned”. Attendance, or apologies are a key element of fulfilling an elected role.

Action: Secretary to contact those members absent from meetings in semester 1 to highlight the Standing Orders and discuss continued memberships.

3. Motions

i) Gender Neutral Toilets

The VP Welfare and Community presented a motion to pilot, until Easter 2016, the designation of the female toilets on the ground floor of University House as gender neutral toilets.

The November meeting of Union Council had considered research into the issue of creating gender neutral toilets within University House. The VP-Welfare and Community had presented student testimonials in support of the development. Following the meeting all councillors were requested to consult with their constituent groups regarding the issue.

A full discussion was heard and issues of inclusion, safety and communications were raised. It was confirmed that gendered toilets would be available in the building at all times and that students would be informed of the location of gendered and gender neutral toilets.

Motion Passes

Action: VP Welfare and Community to progress the pilot of gender neutral toilets, including the communication strategy outlined in the original paper and provide an update to the next meeting of Union Council.

ii) Motion to Extend HUU Volunteer Discount Cards

The Chair of RAG presented a motion that HUU volunteer discount cards be extended to committee members, specifically within the Activities and Welfare zones. The motion highlighted that whilst AU and Society Presidents currently receive discount cards those in positions on the RAG and Hull Fire committees do not. Extending the discount cards would result in 85 extra students being included.

It was noted that the scope of the motion was outwith the remit of Union Council which could only make a recommendation regarding the financial management of the Union.

A full discussion was heard and students’ differing motivations for volunteering, equality within zones and across the student body and the financial impact of the change were discussed.

A procedural motion to postpone the matter to a future meeting of Union Council was brought.

Procedural motion passes – issue postponed.

Action: Secretary to provide background information on the scope of current discounts and the financial implications.

4. Amendment to Life-Time and Associate Membership Charges

Following discussion of the new life and annual associate membership application form at the November meeting of Union Council, a revised form and pricing structure were presented.

It was noted that during the first year following graduation some students may struggle to pay the £25 associate membership fee but benefit greatly from continued connection with HUU activities.

Following discussion it was agreed that a phased payment schedule would be available to alumni in receipt of benefits, during their first year after graduation.

Action: New form to be operationalized and approach to phased payment to be established.

5. Ratification of Societies

The following societies were ratified:

- Computer
- Japanese
- Mental Health Awareness
- Aquatic Science
- Arts and Crafts
- Rock
- Hong Kong

6. Discussion: Union Council Development

Councillors and attendees discussed key questions in groups and reported back.

Where decisions can be made?

- Society ratification by activities zone until acceptance at Union Council

Sovereign body of the union, all areas report to it

- Not being told about any other points?

How would you redesign Union Council to make it more effective?

- Updated more – what's happening?
- Do Facebook event/email/HUU website
- On Hullfire Radio
- Students need to know motions
- Awareness campaign
- Accessible

How can we assure Union Council's represent the student body effectively?

- Communication & transparency – let people know
- Website – clear, concise information
- Social media
- Data collection – shout outs, vlogs, questionnaires, surveys

How can we make more members come?

- Reminders
 - Constant – eg Facebook group

- Use of screens around campus (library)
- Course reps informing classes (give minutes)
- 15 minute update once a month?
- Basic interaction – ASK, advertisements – large, billboard
- #’s, YouTube promotional videos
- Course reps & society presidents

Action: President and the Chair of Union Council to consider recommendations and approaches to the development of Union Council.

7. Zone Reports

i) Chair Governance

President Pick of the Month was 2 weeks ago and the challenge was to dress as a Hogwarts student for an entire day, Chuby even went to an emergency university meeting wearing it.

Accessibility Campaign has started, with a focus on mobility issues involving the President going round the University in a wheelchair, he will do this again on the 11th December. The campaign will be entitled ‘Action for Access’.

Faith forum was scheduled but has been postponed until 7th December and the President and Environment and Ethics Officer been working in this.

Info leaflets on HUU have been sent to print and delivered.

Sabb Sofa on the 8th December had a christmas theme and involved raising the profile of the accessibility campaign. The issue of car parking was raised by a number of students and concerns were echoed by members of Union Council.

Action: President to raise student car parking concerns with the University and report back to the next meeting.

President attended the NUS local Conference on the 25th November in Newcastle at Northumbria University and talked a lot about the BME attainment gap and got some great ideas.

The Environment and Ethics Officer has been working with the Union Market on getting more fair trade items added and negotiating a 5p charity donation from the sale of plastic bags in the shop. In addition, an end of year campaign on waste is being explored - collecting old items, encouraging good quality items to be recycled or donated.

ii) Chair Education

VP Education

Received Judgements and Key Findings letter from the UK Quality Assurance Agency Higher Education Review (QAA HER). It suggests that there are two main areas of improvement; firstly on feedback on assessments which links to VPE Feedback Campaign which was launched on 7 December online, and a tangible campaign will run next semester; secondly that students must be made aware of the complaints and appeals decisions.

VPE will write a response to the Green Paper on behalf of HUU in the next few weeks and will meet the NUS Policy Advisor.

Student-Led Teaching Awards have launched and have received 150 nominations so far. VPE and Education Coordinator will select days to campaign at the Laws, the library and Scarborough Campus, as well as continue to promote the campaign in semester two.

VPE attended a meeting as a full member of the Library and Learning Innovation Senior Management Group for the very first time. This was productive and it was decided that 24 hour loan items in the High Demand Collection will be made available for 48 hours for students with a registered disability or learning difference. Other issues were discussed such as the lateness of lecture times and how this affects students, particularly those with families and the possible creation of a university social media policy.

The VPE is currently the co-owner of a project within Learning Enhancement and Academic Practice (LEAP) looking at the long term implementation of the Academic Support Tuition policy. There is an agreement to employ 5 student interns to work on the implementation project

Faculty Coordinators

All Coordinators are busy listening and responding to the views of Course Reps.

HUBS

In HUBS, there has been networking events run alongside the SSC by the faculty coordinator to develop the skills of course reps and imbue them with knowledge of the system and the confidence to represent their peers. In addition, the faculty coordinator has enquired into the portfolio of work in marketing compared to other areas of HUBS as there seems to be a pressured deadline for marketing students

Some students raised the issue of the new feedback system on e-bridge, and the confusion caused by lack of communication from faculties as to how the e-submission form worked.

The Education Coordinator was actioned to gain access to the Course Rep page on e-bridge to ensure swifter communication and to acquire an understanding of the system. Extra Training will be provided for Course Reps after the exam period in January for new Course-Reps.

Arts and Social Sciences Coordinator

There have been concerns surrounding the issue of degrees given as part of C2016+. There has been the suggestion of a possible campaign to work on this. Electronic submission was also raised, as it was deemed confusing and not communicated sufficiently to students.

The Education Coordinator was actioned to send department representative details to FASS coordinator.

Faculty of Education Coordinator

An e-mail has been sent to the whole faculty garnering support for an Education Society. The change from tangible copies of the referencing guidelines to electronic form has been a cause for concern due to difficulty of use, particularly when writing essays. The FC will discuss matters regarding this with the Faculty. Finally, a question was raised on the flexibility of parking in campus car parks and the problem of signage.

The issue of parking was raised and the VPE was actioned pass the issue of parking to the President as part of wider discussions of this issue. See minute 7(i).

Postgraduate Research

There has been a workshop centring on research projects, providing a chance for research students to interact with the University and meet fellow postgraduates, as well as develop key skills. Registration for Tier 4 Visa students will change to every month as opposed to every week, relaxing the pressures on these students.

Councillor for Scrutiny

VPE and Councillors for Scrutiny to meet Thursday 17 December to discuss funds and Opps plan. VPE informed Zone that he used funds carefully this year and has not overspent.

iii) Chair Activities

VP Activities

- ISA Speed friending is postponed and will happen after Christmas
- Faith Forum dates for semester 2 planned, and holding a Faith Awareness Week, April 4th.
- Working on rewriting the Zone standing orders.
- Organising a volunteer thank you party.
- Campaign started for more money for the Zone.
- Working with the Faculty of Health and Social Care in getting their students more involved in the Union.
- The Website is currently being updated .
- The University Christmas Carol Concert raised about £400 for RAG and HUSSO

ISA

- Successful trip to Manchester Christmas Market with 22 attendees.
- Productive first committee meeting, with lots of new ideas which are worked on and will hopefully be announced soon
- With the help from the HullFire Radio, ISA has launched The ISA Show, a show that crosses borders and time zones to bring a piece of international culture to the University of Hull. It had its first live broadcast on 26th of November, and it turned out to be a very effective way of reaching students, introducing the ISA committee and inviting international students to the radio show for a chat on various topics such as cultural differences.
- ISA has successfully interconnected with Chinese and Japanese society, and we will be hosting a few joint events in the near future.
- Winter Wonderland Ball this Thursday

RAG

- RAG week and RAG Mag are now more or less planned, just on final approvals.
- Plans for Jailbreak almost done, just being finalised
- Big pub Quiz with Societies going well, looking at including AU as well

Media

- Hullfire Paper had a release mid-November. Very successful online articles, with over 5000 online view. Vice Chancellor has commended our efforts. They are currently redesigning the paper for the new year
- Hullfire TV filmed AU Come Dancing, to be released shortly
- Hullfire Radio have had a full 18 hour schedule per day, with a huge array of student presenters
- Ran a training meeting for all presenters last week
- Looking to outside sources for funding into equipment

Societies

- Christmas Council, went really well and Academic Societies Post Exam Celebration was

announced

- We have secured getting Team Photos for Societies like the AU have
- Society Stripes (accreditation) is now live.
- Given out £300 of the Grant so far and have had several more applications in which are being looked at.
- We are planning a comicon style fundraising event for the new year.

iv) Chair Welfare and Community

VP Welfare & Community

- StuRents report that they had significantly less people going through their website looking for houses. The feedback shows that the moving of the Housing Fair was a good idea.
- Mental health - working with staff from the University SWLWS team to get more students onto the stress control workshops.
- White Ribbon donation money has been transferred to recipients.

BAME Officer

- First big debate – went really well – over 40 people attended.
- Planning a talk on Islamphona with Islamic Society
- Planning drinks and social with lgbt+

Disabled Students Officer

- Working with International Office to discuss accessibility guide for the University for exchange students
- New committee members are in place and making a positive contribution.
- Looking forward to mental health and LGBT+ event

LGBT+ Officers

- Intersectional workshops planned
- Mental health lgbt + event planned
- Making new plans for the year

Women's Officer

- Working on lad culture campaign
- Consent workshops should be hopefully ready in January

Links

- Our trainee first aiders have their assessment day on Saturday 12th so hopefully we will have a load more first aiders shortly.
- We've started planning our 25th anniversary celebrations which will be occurring next year at some point (possibly April)
- Our treasurer has resigned and we've voted as a committee to dissolve the role (as in St. John Ambulance it's not a recognised or required role anyway). We'll share the workload of the treasurer between members.

v) Chair Sport

VP Sport

- AU is exploring ways to find money to cover money for travel, equipment, and match costs. Current target is £5k and the total currently stands at £1k. A 'go fund me' page will be set up. Hopefully after the Old boys/girls weekend and the events leading up to this we should be at £2k but we need to think of other ways to raise money.

- The Student Experience campaign has been launched and is progressing well with students responding to the survey. The aim is to look at the link between sport and the wider student experience, and the role that sport plays in empowering and retaining students.
- AU Presidents now have the power to nominate 'player of the month' to give thanks to their teams. These will be on the website fairly soon for their team to see. Currently working with marketing to add content to the union website re FAQs and feedback channels.
- Working more closely with sports science to explore getting more coaching resource. Looking at the sports strategy some of this will come into place for the future, currently VP Sport has managed to get any member from an AU team access to the sports injury clinic.
- The facilities project has gone through and does look quite positive for most of our students, although there is still some work to do. VP Sport is working to ensure that students will have full access to the project team to make sure the students, the major stakeholder, have input all the way through the project.
- Old Boys/Girls Alumni Weekend: Aiming for this event to become an annual fixture where we will invite past AU members back and the current members of clubs for a weekend of sport and activities. I am discussing with Andy King (Commercial Services Director) and Adam Sheridan (Entertainments & Venue Manager) the cost of this event, to provide some funds to the clubs and the AU budget.
- Trophy Pres Winners Ceremony: In order to give some extra value to the awards, the VPS is looking at doing a formal event for the winners of the major AU trophies to be represented by members of the University senior management.
- Tour update: We have received 680 deposits to date. Organising four staff to accompany tour.

AU Secretary and Communications

- Trying to draft up a generic letter to attract sponsors for the AU for next year to make it easier for clubs to get going at the start of the year so members don't have to pay for transport etc from their own money. Starting with approaching England Rugby and netball.

Varsity and Events Officer

- Varsity in April: Once we have a list of the teams that Lincoln can compete in, the left over teams from our university may then possibly compete against another university so they get to take part but these will most likely be friendlies.

Tour Officer

- Planning for Tour going well with the next task being coordinating Tour names and pre Tour events.

Inclusivity and Participation

- Briefing meeting held with HUU liberations, LGBT, BAME. Raising the awareness to them about Sport England and prides sport's support. This will also be carried out in Scarborough to increase inclusivity there.
- Possibility of a Scarborough invasion on February 6th with their teams coming across to compete in a few sports.

vi) Chair Scarborough

Vice-President

- Working with Campus Sport to provide activities during the cross campus days to Hull.

- Exploring the role of Department Reps. They will now be able to attend the Scarborough Education and Quality Committee (SEQC), where they are able to bring issues direct to Heads of Departments.
- Co-ordinated a Christmas Family Day. The event was aimed at students with families as they have traditionally less catered for by HUU.

Education Officer

- Chaired the Rep/Principal Forum with the VPSc. Giles Davidson (Acting Principal) attended and provide a Q&A session on campus matters.

Welfare Officer

- Launched SHAG on campus in the form of the “Sex Fairy”, where students could submit questions regarding sexual health.

Community Officer

- Exploring opportunities for students to volunteering in the community. The project is called “Scarborough Coastival” and promotes local musical heritage.

Sports Officer (Acting):

- Has started a badminton league and have spoken with team captains regarding ideas for Sports Relief.

Equality and Diversity Officer

- Planning has begun for a Diversity Day event next semester.

Campaigns Officer

- Planning a campaign against the Government repayment plan on tuition loans.

Team Update

- Have been promoting “The Big Scarborough Shout Out” and Give It A Go York christmas market trip.

8. Any Other Business

- i) Communication with Scarborough Zone
It was highlighted that only sabbatical officer (VP Education) had contacted their equivalent member of the Scarborough Executive.

Action: Officers to contact members of the Scarborough Executive.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 22 February 2016, 6.30pm, Meeting Room 1