

Minutes of Student Council LTSU 13/11/2023 - AM11 18.00- 20.00

Attendees

Shawn (S) / (Chair) - Council Chair. And Post Graduate Students' Officer
Theo Madden (TM)-Vice Chair (elected at meeting 13/11/2023) and Disabled Students' Officer
Kelsey Howard-Matthews (KHM) - LTSU President
Caitlin Fieldhouse - (CF) LTSU Vice -President
Mark McKeown - (MM) International Students' Officer
Isaac Elwell-Oakes (IEO) Mental Health Officer

Samuel Wright- (SW) Mature and Part Time Officer
Jordi O'Connor - (JO) Sustainability Officer
Anita Chippendale - (AC) Interfaith Officer
Ifat Saghir- (IS) Women's Officer
Jey Jones - (JJ)LGBTQ+ Officer
Lois Koko -(LK) Faculty Rep BCDI
Maddie Goodhand - (MG)Faculty Rep SSE
Debbie Clarke Representation and Democracy Coordinator (DC)
Nathan Barker Engagement manager (NB)

Welcome and apologies

Apologies
Lady Boamah - (LB) BAME Officer

Minutes from the previous meeting

* [Chair] discussed the minutes from the previous meeting, which were from March.

[KHM] recalled that there was a meeting in May or June, but the minutes were not available.

* [Chair] discussed the election of the vice chair. [TM] volunteered and there were no other candidates and no objections.

TM duly elected as Vice -Chair for 2023-24

Urgent Matters

No urgent matters were brought to council.

Election of Vice- Chair

TM stood for the role of Vice Chair and was duly elected into post unanimously by council.

Election of Members for Committee

* [Chair] discussed the appointment of ex officio members and elected members of the Student Executive Committee.

(DC) Representation Democracy Coordinator LTSU clarified the role of the Student Executive Committee.

[Chair] called for volunteers for the two available positions.

JM and TM stood for the positions. Voted unanimously into post.

Officer Updates

International Students' Officer Report

* [MM] provided an update on their plans for international students, including a panto in January, hiking in the Yorkshire Moors, and a "Chill and Chat" event.

[KHM] suggested sending an email to the international coordination department and exploring the possibility of a Christmas market.

[JO] offered to help with sustainability and health and safety.

[Chair] called for any objections to the report, and there were none. Report duly passed.

Action :- MM to discuss with JO on help needed.

MM to send email to international office to request further help with students' names

Disabled Students' Officer report

Discussion of University Mission and Bullying Awareness Week Meeting with [Director of catholic Mission to discuss Interfaith week.

* [AC] discussed the mission of the university and proposed a Bullying Awareness Week. [TM] proposed creating a video and other piece of work to be shared on the website and social media.

[AC] also discussed working with the Oxford Home Centrelines along with the Mental Health and Disability officers to combat loneliness and disability issues.

Action [Chair] asked [TM] to follow up with external companies to ensure the university is involved in any partnerships.

to contact external companies

Discuss loneliness campaign with TM and IEO

TM discussed creating a video for students regarding anti-bullying for disability history month and how disability affects them on a daily basis.

TM discussed asking disabled students to share their daily experiences of disability for Disability History Month to destigmatise disabilities across LTU.

TM discuss collaborating with an external group to bring other SU's together. KHM requested as President to be included in conversations around partnership links.

Action- to discuss video with LTSU staff

TM to bring further information about group discussed for SC to discuss. Also discussions to include KHM at beginning of discussions

[Chair] called for any objections to the report and asked if everyone was happy to pass it. No objections were raised. Report Duly Passed

Interfaith Officer Report

Advised of holding 121s with (DC) s part of role

AI would like to establish a new student table in the canteen to help combat loneliness for new students arriving on campus.

Chill and Chat session to be arranged with ltsu

Meeting to be held with Director of Catholic Mission to discuss Interfaith week and a collaborative event.

[Chair] called for any objections to the report and asked if everyone was happy to pass it. No objections were raised. Report Duly Passed

AC discussed Women's day of pray and arranging an event alongside IF as women's office . KHM requested to be included in this meeting.

Action: - AC to meet with IEO and ~~TM~~ TM to discuss collaboration of events to combat loneliness.

AC to meet with IS and KHM to discuss women's event.

Sustainability Report

* [JO] proposed a Sustainability Day in December and working with the university to reduce light pollution on campus.

[JO] is looking for someone to measure the light pollution and is in contact with suppliers for battery bins to increase the recycling outlets for students.

Discussion of Sustainable Disposal

* [JO] proposed having multiple battery bins around campus for safe disposal.

* [KHM] discussed the Building Researchers Environmental Assessment Methodology and suggested a digital version of the campaign to turn off lights.

* [JM] requested that Burns Night on the 25th of January be noted as a day to support burns victims.

Actions :-

JO to discuss with CF on collaboration with projects for sustainability.

* [Chair] called for any objections to the report and asked if everyone was happy to pass it. No objections were raised. Report Duly Passed

LGBTQ Officer Report

* [JJ] discussed the LGBTQ society and proposed campaigns for Pansexual Pride Day on 8th December and Trans visibility Day on March 31st.

[JJ] is also planning a mix-up event to give LGBTQ students an opportunity to meet each other.

* [Chair] called for any objections to the report and asked if everyone was happy to pass it. No objections were raised. Report Duly Passed

Women's Officer Report

* [IS] discussed International Women's Day activities, including workshops, self-defence, social meetings, and Women in Power. KHM] raised concerns about the legality and liability of self-defence sessions.

[JO] proposed working with D&B All-Stars to create music-related events. [AC] suggested working with the Oxford Home Centerlines and the BAME office to combat gender-based violence. [Chair] asked to follow up with external companies to ensure the university is involved in any partnerships.

KHM asked to be involved in any Women's Day discussions that take place due to prior plans made for International Women's Day.

Actions IS to discuss projects and events further with LTSU staff to ensure they are within SU guidelines and risk assessment criteria.

* [Chair] called for any objections to the report and asked if everyone was happy to pass it. No objections were raised. Report Duly Passed

Mature and Part-time Officer Report

Discussion of Mature Students

* [SW] discussed the difficulties mature students face in finding part-time work and proposed a university day for mature students to meet and get to know each other.

[SW] noted that mature students often have commitments that prevent them from staying at university for long.

[SW] suggested allowing parents to bring their children to the event. [CF] proposed allowing external families to attend the event as well. [MM] expressed support for the idea. [KHM] suggested connecting with the York Market trip organiser to provide places and activities for children for the trip.

[CF] questioned how SW was currently contacting mature and part-time students. [SW] explained that it is by word-of-mouth and approaching them in person. [CF] suggested SW contacting PT lecturers to see if they could support SW to contact the representative group

Action:- SW to contact LTSU to look into the provisions available for children on the trip.

* [Chair] called for any objections to the report and asked if everyone was happy to pass it. No objections were raised. Report Duly Passed

Mental Health Officer Report

* [IEO] proposed a social media campaign to raise awareness of men's health and other health-related issues, as well as a partnership with the Islamic Society for a children's channel lounge.

[IEO] suggested a Green Ribbon Walk and a talk from Andy Mann's club in December. [Chair] asked if there were any questions for Isaac.

* [Chair] called for any objections to the report and asked if everyone was happy to pass it. No objections were raised. Report Duly Passed

Chair and Postgraduate Students' Officers Update

Chair passed the seat to TM during reports

[S] moved on to the chair's report, which was collaboratively discussed with the Sustainability officers goal set of sustainable societies.

[TM] passed the issue for now and [S] provided an update to counsel.

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* [S] gave an update on the chair and postgraduate officers, including attending council training, working with LTSU staff, and moving the first student council meeting from the 6th of November to the 13th of November. [Chair] also mentioned drafting the student council notice, offering input on the student council agenda, and working collaboratively with student council and LTSU staff. [KHM] raised an objection in terms of clarity on the process for approving clubs and societies, to which [S] clarified that he was reviewing the process due to a society awaiting approval for seven weeks.

* [KHM] discussed the process of approval and collaborative review, with [S] emphasizing that it is not a driven thing and [KHM] noting that it would be driven by the Vice President and not [S].

* [S] expressed the concern around self-policing for clubs and societies.

* [CF] clarified that Chairs only vote in the case of a tie, so committees remain fair and self-policing does not occur.

[JM] asked about refunds for ex-members of the art society. [KHM] suggested contacting LTSU staff for assistance.

* [Chair] called for any objections to the report and asked if everyone was happy to pass it. 1 objection were raised. Report Duly Passed with objection recorded.

Postgraduate Students' Officer Update

* [S}] explored the possibility of altering the shuffle bus timetable to accommodate postgraduate courses that run late on Wednesdays. * [AI] asked about the shuttle bus service and [KHM] mentioned ongoing discussions with both campuses, as well as a campaign with LUU and LBSU with First Bus.

* [AC] asked about the frequency of the shuttle bus service and [KHM] mentioned that it runs in the morning and late afternoon, but not during the middle of the day.

[SW] asked about the shuffle bus timetable location and [TM] suggested finding it on the LTU website.

* [JO] asked about the shuttle bus to the lead city centre campus and [KHM] mentioned that discussions are already underway with the university.

* [AC] asked if there is room to increase the frequency of the shuttle bus service and [KHM] mentioned that it is a challenge, but not currently possible.

* [S] discussed the shortage of size XL hoodies for postgraduate students, including international students.

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* [CF] asked about the postgraduate evening and expressed the jumpers were given to students there. [Chair] mentioned the backlog with VISA for international students.

* [CF] asked about how contact had been made with postgraduate students and [S] mentioned making contact with PG lecturers and student experience needs, as well as walking around and talking to people.

Faculty Rep report BCDI

* [LK] gave an update on student placement, including keeping in contact with Anna Park, and planning to do the placement in January or February.

* [LK] mentioned that they had been in contact with Deputy Head of the School of Business, who wants to increase student participation and motivation by planning trips to London.

* [JO] suggested looking into sustainable modes of transport for the trip, such as taking one bus.

* [LK] mentioned that the trip would include visits to Bloomberg and Bank of England Museum, and that international students with businesses back home would be interested in attending.

* [LK] mentioned that Deputy Head of the School of Business wanted to take a coach to London, but that they had concerns about the 6am pick up time and two pick up points.

* [KHM], [CF], and [TM] discussed sustainability, with [JO] suggesting looking into sustainable modes of transport for the trip, such as taking one bus

Action

LK to discuss with LTU on sustainability modes of transport for trip.

Faculty Rep Report SSE

MG advised that course rep training was taking place and that to date 13/11 30 out of the 100 students who had signed up had taken up the training.

Deans of faculties have offered support to LTSU (DC) to facilitate gathering more students for training.

MG requested resources for feedback for those students on placement.

MG has been contacted by primary Ed group for training and course reps and feedback resources.

Action MG to discuss placement arrangements with DC

MG to discuss primary ed course reps and training with DC

Presidents Report

* [KHM] has been focusing on personal tutoring, including a student handbook, a coaching approach, and a review system.

* [KHM] has also been working on access and participation, including a student submission and working groups rooted in student focus.

* [KHM] is also working on a Leeds-wide campaign on transport, taking into account feedback from students about unreliable buses and lack of deals.

[KHM] stated they want to get back into the strategy of SU rather than focussing mainly on operational aspects.

Social Justice

* [KHM] is focusing on social justice, including creating principles of inclusivity and a Dream Big Campaign.

* [JM] is also doing social justice work, including talks at youth clubs and anti-naive crime and anti-gun crime music.

Transferable Skills

* [KHM] discussed the importance of transferable skills, noting that they are applicable to multiple fields and can be beneficial for mature students.

* [JM] discussed the impact of e-learning on student motivation, noting that many students are less likely to attend lectures in person.

* [MG] expressed interest in being involved in the Dream Big Campaign, noting that many students don't know what to do after their degree and that the industry is wide open.

* [AC] discussed the importance of making connections and networking, noting that the industry is wide open and that projects are available.

Vice-President Report

* [CF] provided an update on their work with Matt Nunnerley SU Advice on a housing campaign, and working with Matt Nunnerley (LTSU advice) on a festive break support guide.

* [CF] discussed their work with LTSU and students, and their involvement in Feedback Friday ,Awards Evening, and Varsity.

* [CF] discussed their work on changing the adoption process for clubs and societies, and their work with JM and KHM to look at the sustainability of different parts of the union.

[CF] discussed the Hedgehog Friendly Campus (HFC) accreditation and recently attended a conference to learn more information to see about it's feasibility for LTSU.

* [JM] suggested looking into box-proof hedgehog homes for tournaments, and AC] mentioned looking into local hedgehog options.

* [KHM] suggested a bottle top collection campaign

{JJ} noted that the revolving doors can be heavy and not accessible for wheelchair users.

* [TM] mentioned that people with disabilities may struggle with the revolving doors.

[JM believes there may be a way that university estates can change the door to create easier access.

[JM] suggested looking into all sensor doors, as they are more reliable for accessible students.

* [AC] proposed looking at other doors that can be pushed open, as well as the areas around them to ensure access for those with disabilities. Council advised

that this would cause issues with the consumption of power for the constant heating if doors remained open.

* [CF] asked the group how they would best engage with a survey on race equality.

* [CF] asked the group how they would be motivated to complete a survey on race equality.

* [JO] suggested that the survey should be used for something productive, rather than just being forgotten about in two years' time.

* [TM] asked what the end goal of the survey was.

* [JO] suggested that the survey should be used to make a difference with the information.

* [Chair] explained the process of co-opting, which would allow the chair to act as the post-graduate Students' officer.

* [CF] asked if the chair would still campaign if they were also chairing.

* [Chair] clarified that they would give an actual number of roles, as long as the student council was okay with it.

* [TM] confirmed that the group was okay with the co-opting.

Trustee Positions

* [KHM] announced that trustee positions were available and that an application form would be sent out.

* [KHM] explained that the trustees hold the student union accountable at the top and that they would be interviewing applicants.

* [KHM] clarified that there are three student trustee positions, with one being filled and two being vacant.

Human Rights Day and Crossing from Rugby Club to University

* [MM] mentioned that Human Rights Day is on December 10th and that there is a lot of overlap between a lot of roles.

* [MM] raised the issue of crossing from the rugby club to the university, noting that it is dangerous due to fast cars and bad weather.

* [MM] suggested that a mirror would be a start to help with vision and safety.

* [SW] mentioned that Horsforth was badly lit with street lights and that it was very dark at night.

* [KHM] offered to raise the issue of crossing from the rugby club to the university with the university, noting that any changes would have to go through council.

* [JJ] mentioned that when cars are sent to Yarnbury, it is not always easy see and to be able to get a mirror, as it has to go through the council.

*[AC] raised the issue of crossing from the rugby club to the university, noting that the road is dangerous and that it is hard to stop for pedestrians.

* [JO] countered that there is a pedestrian crossing, but that it is not safe to walk to it as there is no path.

* [JM] raised the issue of students not having access to free contraception, noting that it goes against the university's religious beliefs.

* [KHM] discussed the university's stance on safe sex, noting that funding for free condoms has been cut and that they are trying to find out what the university's stance is from an executive point of view.

* [CF] mentioned that during a recent LTSU event, the LTSU Advice stall gave free condoms and noticed the need for them.

Committee Positions

* [KHM] asked if anyone wanted to join the Learning, Teaching and Student Experience (LTSE) Committee or the Academic Board.

* [DC] offered to send out descriptions of the positions to everyone.

[JO], volunteered for the LTSE Committee with MG already being a member.

*[MM] volunteered for Academic Board.

Sustainability

KHM, CF and JM ran a discussion regarding LTSU sustainability

Questions were asked of the student council to discuss and bring back to student council on 27th November for feedback

- a) How can your role as officers be more sustainable based around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

KHM, CF and JO discussed and will share the UN sustainability development goals being worked towards to all officers for them to see which ones relate to their areas.

KHM discussed bringing a motion for the sustainability of SU to become part of the job responsibilities of the President of the SU

SC confirm they believed a motion would be a good idea for this role

JO offered support to members of SC on any sustainability matters.

JO stated that students only believe doing campaigns to save face,

MG queried would sustainability be more on the academic side for the president role.

KHM agreed that it would relate to academic sustainability based around KHM's remit.

KHM- advised on plastic bottle top campaign to send away bottle tops to external company who will use them to create art work.

AOB

CF advised council that we have been notified of a Climate Ambassador role has become available via external means. All council members given the information for them to follow up if they wish.

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[JO], volunteered for the LTSE Committee with MG already being a member.

*[MM] volunteered for Academic Board.

* [DC] agreed and offered to send out the minutes to everyone with descriptions within 5 working days , with any issues needing to be addressed by Tuesday 21st November of the following week.

* [Chair] discussed the need for a minimum of three Student Council meetings per academic year and the possibility of having them once a month.

* [CF] suggested having at least one per month because one per semester would not be as beneficial for the productivity of the council.

* [Chair] proposed the 4th of December as the date for the next meeting, considering the end of the academic year and the availability of students.

* [MM] suggested the 27th of November as an alternative date.

[AC] mentioned the Carol Concert on the 4th December and suggested the 27th of November as the date for the next meeting.

SC voted on next meeting date .

* [Chair] suggested that the minutes should be shared with everyone to ensure accuracy.

* [DC] proposed the same time and place for the next meeting.

* [Chair] confirmed that the next meeting will be held on the 27th of November.