



UL STUDENTS' UNION
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Representation, Participation, Inspiration

**University of Lincoln Students' Union
Executive Committee**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee
Held on Friday 28 February 2013 at 11.00 am
In the Students' Union Board Room

Present:

Jennine Fox, President (Chair)
Wesley Wells, Vice President Academic Affairs
Dan Sam, Vice President Activities
Kayleigh-May Coddington, Officer for Students (present until 11.50 am)
Jade Snedeker, Sports Officer
Andrew Twagira, Vice President Welfare & Diversity
Hugh Lound, Officer for Students
Tom Candy, College of Science representative
Gooleswari Seeburn, Societies Officer
Jade Snedeker, Sports Officer (present until 11.50 am)

Also in attendance

James Brooks, Chief Executive
Amanda Marshall, Executive Assistant
Kirsty Barnes, Course Representative Worker (for agenda item 6 only)
Aidan Mersh, Representation Co-ordinator (for agenda item 6 only)

Noted:

Vice Chancellor's staff presentation

- The Executive team attended the Vice Chancellor's staff presentation from 10.00 am to 11.00 am, which a number of the Executive found useful

1.

1.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Francesca Anderson, Officer for Students
Loryn Good, College of Arts Representative, Lindsay Westgarth, College of Social
Science Representative, and James Wigger, Groups Officer (for the second part of
the meeting)

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2013

Agreed:

- The minutes of the meeting hold on 15 February 2013 were agreed as an accurate record., subject to apologies being recorded by James Wigger

1.2 Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were received

3. Matters Arising

Bullet team

Noted:

- The Chair has spoken to some members of the Bullet team regarding suspending the publication pending the outcome of the strategic review

- Bullet's Treasurer was not consulted on the content of the last issue
- The publication needs to be student led and a communication tool to students

Action:

- Jennine Fox to follow up communicating Executive's decision to the Bullet team editors

4. Student Feedback from GOATing

College of Science

Noted:

- The College of Science Representative reported that all students were happy, following a recent Subject Committee meeting
- Plans for the Science Park have been shared with students, which it is due to be completed in March 2014, and used from September 2014

Kayleigh Coddington, Officer for Students

Noted:

- A number of students are reporting third year stresses with dissertations

Kayleigh Coddington, for James Wigger, Groups Officer

Noted:

- At the recent Groups Council meeting only LGBT was in attendance
- MAPS is not together at the moment and James is leaving them to it for a few weeks before getting involved
- Groups need a firm officer to lead them
- The members felt that the training that they received was too late in the semester
- Groups would like organisers rather than a formal committee structure, for accountability/contacts/finance handling
- As groups are not currently working, and initial findings on the strategic review show that students have not identified groups as a priority, JB suggested setting up a working group with relative SU staff members to move this forward

Action:

- Andrew Twagira to set up and lead a working group with Dan Sam, James Wigger, Aidan Mersh and Rebecca Pocock; and students who are members of the groups

Hugh Lound, Officer for Students

Noted:

- Some third year students have raised concerns over third year marking, with low marks and harsh reference marking
- Wesley Wells suggested that Hugh raise these issues with College of Social Science representative Lindsay Westgarth

Dan Sam, Activities Officer

Noted:

- There have been issues with a society wishing to raise a petition against the SU, due to a coach being ordered without the correct paperwork in place (ie not signed by an authorised signatory). There are no funds in the society's account to cover the cost of the coach, which arrived but was not needed.

Andrew Twagira, Welfare & Diversity Officer

Noted:

- MAPS group just wishes to be a social, not a representative group, and may be better as a society.

Wesley Wells, Academic Affairs Officer

Noted:

- The first Reps Forum took place on 27 February 2013 and an advisory group for Blackboard has been formed
- Lecturers felt that the University does not support postgraduates sufficiently, and there was a lot of evidence to support this
- The SU will prepare a student written submission next year for postgraduate students

Google Seeburn, Societies Officer

Noted:

- Thanks were conveyed by the Islamic Society and the Christian Union to all those who attended the awareness week, and for the support they received.

5. Campuses

Noted:

- No update to receive.

6. Round the Clock Representation

Noted:

- Course Representative Worker Kirsty Barnes attended the meeting to present her plans for representation over the coming year – which commences in March 2013 to coincide with the elections process
- These plans will be embedded into the department's Operations Plan, which will ultimately go to the Board
- Handbooks will be designed and created over the summer for reps
- She has put together a shared calendar, and dates and activities in this will be an ongoing process
- 'Reps Forums' will be changing to 'Reps Councils' shortly

7. Student Led Project Proposal

Noted:

- The Executive considered the student led project proposal.

**8. Feedback from key meetings
Equality & Diversity Committee**

Noted:

- The Committee would like representation from a postgraduate and an international student. No interest has been shown from students yet, and the students sitting on this Committee should be a rep' or co-opted by Student Council
- It is essential that these representatives are 'elected' and not 'selected'

Motion

Noted:

- Dan met with and had a very positive meeting with the University's Director of Planning Caroline Low and highlighted concerns on the recent motion – the amended version of which has not been issued yet
- The Atrium project next year will enable all councils to meet in one large room (upstairs on the first floor); which will be available every Friday

Union Strategic Review

Noted:

- James Brooks shared the initial strengths and weaknesses from the stakeholder strategic review:
- 115 stakeholders of Lincoln SU were consulted via an online questionnaire during February 2013. Communication stood out as the key perceived weakness.

- The key strengths of the Union were described as supportive, helpful and friendly
- Other main areas for development were viewed as being student involvement, societies and groups, advice and support services, the organisation/structure and partnership working

9. Project Updates & Campaigns

Elections

Noted:

- Tom Candy declared an interest, as he is running for a position in the elections
- This is the first year that candidate names have been published
- Any feedback on the elections process to be directed to Aidan Mersh in his capacity as Returning Officer

Sports & Societies Awards

Noted:

- The venue may be the Engine Shed, however this will be at a cost of £18 per head, as costs not charged for the venue mean higher food costs per head instead
- Various venue options and sizes are being discussed separately
- Jade felt that having this event in another location may discourage students from attending
- The anticipated numbers are 250-300, and other venues are being explored at present

The other items of business remaining under item 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 were not discussed as the meeting closed at this point (12 noon).

13. Date of next meeting

Noted:

- The next meeting of the Executive Committee is due to take place on Thursday 14 March 2013 at 10.00 am in the SU Board Room

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(Chair)

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Date