



ULSTUDENTS'UNION
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University of Lincoln Students' Union
Minutes of a meeting of the Student Council
held on Monday 16th January 2012 at 5.00pm
in Meeting Room MB1019

Present:

Chair

Natalie Liddle

Council Members

Kayleigh Taylor (President)
Jennine Fox (VP Academic Affairs)
Gemma Cobby (Student Officer)
John Fernandez (Student Officer)
Hugh Lound (SLR Social Science)
Kelly Nicholls (Student Officer)
Christine Ball (SLR Media)
Jack Dobson-Smith (SLR Journalism)
Esther Russell (SLR Health & Social Care)

Students' Union Members

Linsey Hartley
Paula Hilliam
Marcell Grant
Fen Kipley
Chris Whitwood

Also in attendance

Rebecca Pocock (Democracy worker)
Paul Linsley (Principle Senior Lecturer Mental Health)
Rebecca Rock (Representation Manager)

Noted: Quorum was not attained during this meeting

1. Workshop Style Discussion “Student Wellbeing”

Facilitated by Paul Linsley Principle Senior Lecturer Mental Health Nursing.

Discussion:

- What is wellbeing? How is it perceived by students? Students often feel vulnerable when starting University, they may need extra support during this transition period. Is it the University’s responsibility to provide this support and teach life skills, perhaps through a foundation year, or is this the responsibility of further education?
- Wellbeing encompasses all areas of life and therefore students with additional responsibilities such as childcare, work commitments, family commitments should be better supported. Flexible learning patterns should be encouraged.
- The practice of frontloading support services for students in the first 6 weeks was discussed. Most students are lost during the first 6 weeks of University, so should support services be most concentrated then? Should students be taught what to expect from University? What is it realistic for the University to provide?
- Staff-Student relationships were discussed as a key element of wellbeing. Students who were well supported by Staff were felt to have a greater sense of wellbeing. How much support should Staff give Students? Is their role just as an academic tutor or should there be a pastoral element also?
- Students should be encouraged to use Student support services more often. The fragmentation of Student Services, Student Support and the Students’ Union around Lincoln University Campus was discussed. It was felt that there should be one building housing all Student support services under one roof as this would be of greater benefit to the Students.
- It was felt that the establishment of “wellbeing teams” to promote good health/wellbeing themes throughout the year would be a good idea.
- How do we evaluate support being given to Students? What do we do with the information?

Noted:

- Council requested the Executive Team consider the issue of wellbeing further.
- The Chair thanked Paul Linsley for his input into the discussion session.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Maryam Saghir, Lindsay Westgarth, Michael Hansmann, Loryn Good, Scott Davidson.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2011 subject to ratification by Council at the next meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Noted:

- Participation in the Lincoln Pride event is still under discussion with the University at present.

5. Executive Team Update

Noted:

- Brief update due to the Christmas holiday period.
- Officers will be supporting the following events over the next few weeks:
 - Housing Fayre 17th January, Engine Shed, 10-4pm
 - Refresher's Fayre, 18th January, Engine Shed, 10-4pm
 - Sports & Societies Awards 23rd March, Venue tbc
 - Students' Union Awards, 26th April, Venue tbc
- National Students' Survey (NSS), third years only, publicity in conjunction with the University. Students will receive a £5 printing credit for respondents during the first two weeks of the survey.
- Discussions are being held around Varsity. As yet the location and date are to be confirmed. Varsity T-shirts will be on sale soon.
- Reps Conference 22nd February, MTEC Building. Second annual conference with a panel discussion on "What makes Lincoln special?" To be attended by the NUS and Scott Davidson.
- We are working towards the bronze and silver awards for Green Impact.
- National Volunteer Week begins on the 20th February to raise the profile of volunteering. There will be activities run by the volunteering department in the community and also a stand in the Atrium. Check the website/facebook for further details.
- Kayleigh Taylor was successful as the Presidential candidate in the by-election.

Discussed:

- The promotion of University and Union events to part-time and distance learning Students was discussed.

Noted:

- Students are able to re-direct University e-mails to personal accounts if this is more convenient. There is information on the SU website about upcoming events.
- Council is open to any Student to attend, however students from other campuses may find it difficult to attend the meetings.

Noted:

- MAPs will not be attending Refresher's Fayre as they are in the process of changing to a group format, therefore they feel promotion at this time would not be beneficial to students.

6. Discussion Topics for Student Council Meetings

Agreed:

- March: Environmentally friendly campuses, Dan Clayton as a possible speaker
- April: Students as members of their community, Councillor Murray and Lee as possible speakers
- Union engagement with students; how the Union contacts and encourages students to participate
- Student expectations of lecturers
- Ideas to be e-mailed to council@lincolnsu.com

7. Dietary requirements Survey and Cookery Masterclass

Noted:

- The University Catering team are conducting a short survey as a follow-up to a longer in-depth study previously carried out to collate data on special requirements/vegan/vegetarian students.

Noted:

- Tim Anderson, winner of Masterchef 2011 will be giving students a cookery demonstration and a chance to win a luxury food hamper. To take place on the 27th February at 5pm.

8. Student Union Elections

Noted:

- Students commented that feedback from the previous year's elections stated students were concerned about the amount of paper waste associated with Elections.
- Council felt that voter turn-out may be encouraged by having a mobile polling station to travel around various student areas.
- Interest around Elections needs to be generated within the student body. Promotion of the value of becoming part of an elections team and running for a role should be a focus.
- Students need greater clarity on the various roles available.
- Students need information but do not need to be overloaded.

9. Student Open Session

Noted:

- Students were concerned to find that catering prices vary greatly between the campuses.

Action;

- Executive Officers to investigate pricing variance and fairness of pricing.

7. Any Other Business

None noted

8. Date of next meeting

Noted:

- The next meeting will take place on 13th February at 5pm in MB1019 with the discussion topic Student Employability.

I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate summary of the meeting held on 16th January 2012, and have been approved by Student Council. These minutes will now be publicly available.

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Name (Chair)

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Date