



ULSTUDENTS' UNION
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University of Lincoln Students' Union
Minutes of a meeting of the Student Council
held on Friday 9th November 2012 at 12.00pm
in The Platform, The Engine Shed

Present:

Chair

John Fernandez

Council Members

Jennine Fox (President)
Andrew Twagira (VP Welfare & Diversity)
Daniel Sparrow (Sports Council Rep)
Charlotte Greenley (SLR Psychology)
Gareth Salter (Societies Council Rep)
Abisoye Osundairo (Societies Council Rep)
Francesca Anderson (Officer for Students)
Sophie Rayment (SLR Law)
Hugh Lound (Officer for Students)
Tom Briggs (SLR Performance)
Emma Farry (SLR Social Sciences)
Gooleswari Seeburn (Societies Officer)
James Wigger (Groups Officer)

Wesley Wells (VP Academic Affairs)
Kay Coddington (Officer for Students)
Angelica Fyfe (SLR Life Sciences)
Joseph Hartley (SLR Sport)
Nicola MT Sole (SLR Architecture)
Emma Bush (Sports Council Rep)
Beth Burr (SLR Art & Design)
Victoria Hackett (SLR Business)
Thomas Candy (College of Science Officer)
Loryn Good (College of Arts Officer)
Joshua Leafe (SLR Computing)
Jade Snedeker (Sports Officer)
Kyle Cockayne (Groups Council Rep)

Students' Union Members

Charlotte Smith
Grace Townsend
Linford Butler
Rupert Walker
Rebecca Mann

Lucy Zimuto
Komal Ramasawmy
Brian Alcorn
Marcell Grant
Stephanie Lacey

Also in Attendance

James Brooks (Chief Executive Officer, Students' Union)
Mike Neary (Dean of Teaching & Learning)
Ian Johnston (Interim Deputy CEO/Activities & Development Manager)
Emily Hill (Sports & Societies Worker)
Tracey Revall (Sports & Societies Co-ordinator)
Rebecca Pocock (Democracy Worker)
Abi Rogers (Bishop Grossteste Students' Union)
Rob Thorpe (Bishop Grossteste Students' Union)

Welcome from John Fernandez

- John welcomed Abi Rogers and Rob Thorpe from Bishop Grossteste Students' Union.
- John thanked students for attending council.

1. Apologies for Absence

Noted:

- Apologies were received from Deborah Hart, Judith Carey, Scott Davidson, Dan Sam, Lindsay Westgarth, Charlotte Hurrell, Chris Whitwood and Stacey Addison.

2. Approval of Minutes

Agreed:

- The minutes of the Student Council meeting held on the 12th October 2012 were agreed with the following amendments:
- Charlotte Hurrell's name was minuted in error, Charlotte Greenley nominated herself for the roles available at the meeting.
- Komal Ramaswamy and Patrick Lewis' names were incorrectly spelled.
- Andrew Twagira will be the chair of the catering sub-group.
- Loryn Good sent her apologies

3. Matters Arising

Engine Shed Bookings

Noted:

- Dan Sam pre-recorded a video to be shown at Council.
- Concerns were raised at the last Student Council meeting regarding the pricing structure for students wishing to book the Engine Shed for Union Team/Society/Group events.
- Dan Sam has been investigating this matter and the Engine Shed will be providing a full breakdown of costings for events.
- The Business Society are also drafting their own proposal.
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4. Summary of Key Union Meetings

Societies Council

Noted:

- There has been a good turn out for meetings, the SU is currently looking for an alternative location for the meetings.
- The Harry Potter Society has been formed, their first social is next week and it is £5 to join the society.
- The Graphic Design Society has been formed.
- The Juggling Society has re-named as The University of Lincoln Juggling Society
- Life Sciences has split into Life Sciences and Bioscience Societies.
- Sife society changed their name to Enactus due to copyright issues.
- The Islamic Society bid for £250 to promote Prophet Mohammed week was rejected due to previous funding requests.

Groups Council

Noted:

- James Wigger has been elected as Groups Officer.
- The Development fund is to be split equally between the groups (£350 each) with £150 reserved for RAG should it be formed in January.
- Alumni can join groups but can not vote.
- Kyle Cockayne has been nominated as Groups rep.
- Groups discussed ways to promote their visibility around Campus, LGBT has been working in conjunction with the SU marketing department.
- A hidden disabilities campaign is to be run in conjunction with the dance society.

Sports Council

Noted:

- Women's Futsal has been formed.
- Sports teams did not have a good week in competition, not many wins.
- The University marketing department has asked for feedback about their strategy to promote Lincoln University by organising events such as a mini Olympics against the RAF.

Executive Committee Summary

Noted:

- The Accommodation rating scheme is under review. The Executive team is trying to change the way students can view accommodation ratings prior to signing contracts with providers. The Council scheme currently only looks at the fabric of the building, it does not take into account student experience.
- The Prayer Room was discussed.
- An inter-faith Council has been introduced.
- There is a new Public Engagement Committee which gives opportunities for students to get involved in community activities and vice versa.
- The NUS 2102 Demo tickets are on sale for £5 at the SU reception. A second coach will be provided if there is enough demand for places.
- The Snowflake Ball has sold out of earlybird tickets.
- The Photo Company used for team/group/society photos has been changed. Students will now be able to collect photos on the same day they are taken.
- The SU will be promoting a zero tolerance policy on homophobia.

5. Officer Update

Wesley Wells (VP Academic Affairs)

Noted:

- Wesley has been spending a large proportion of his time in meetings during October/November.
- There is a QAA visit soon at the University. QAA is like Ofsted for University.
- All reps have been trained at course level. The training schedule and rep structure are being worked on ready for next year.
- Preparation is underway for Demo 2012.

Andrew Twagira (VP Welfare & Diversity)

Noted:

- The Housing Horrors Campaign is underway. Videos can be seen at www.lincolnsu.com and on the SU Youtube channel. This campaign is designed to raise awareness of issues students may face with housing.
- Andrew has been in discussions with the Head of Residential services over the feedback/petition about Lighthouse. Action will be taken over the recent complaints. The course of action is not yet known, however the Executive Team will release this information once it is known through social media and the SU website.
- A Student Entrepreneur Event is to be held in The Jackson Lecture Theatre on the 15th November at 6.30pm.
- The Inter-faith Forum is now in operation and has representatives from the Christian Union and Islamic Society as well as the University Chaplain as members. They are planning an event at the end of November to promote unity among all faiths.

Daniel Sam (VP Activities) – Update by Video

Noted:

- Dan was unable to attend Council due to BUCs training in Nottingham, however he sent an update by video.

- Earlybird tickets for Snowflake Ball sold out in 3 days. Tickets are now available at £17 each. Demand for tickets has been good so far, the SU is trying to promote the event to students who do not usually participate in SU events.
- Lincoln City Football Club has a new volunteering arm to encourage social development for youths in certain areas of Lincoln. Students are being given the opportunity to get involved.
- The SU is working with students on having a louder campaigning voice.
- There may be the possibility of having an ipad login facility in Faculty buildings for students to check their timetables which will be quicker than a PC.

Jennine Fox (President)

Noted:

- The Memorandum of Understanding with the University is currently under review. The document is reviewed every 5 years and outlines the commitment between the University and the Union, governance and financial support/provision.
- A Strategic review is underway. The union's Strategic Plan has never been approved.
- An external marketing company (Altoline) is being employed to conduct market research with students to identify demographics, check that the institution is fit for purpose and to identify any areas of weakness. They will be speaking to thousands of students which will generate a great deal of evidence to inform the strategic plan.
- Jennine has been at the NUS Union Development and Higher Education Conferences.
- The SU has adopted a zero tolerance policy in Union sports following advice from NUS. NUS are currently running an "Out in Sport" Campaign to encourage inclusion of LGBT students in sport. There will be a campaign at Lincoln to raise awareness of this new policy.

Action:

- Jennine Fox is to share the NUS report via social media

6. Catering Sub-Group

Noted:

- There have been two meetings so far, 25th October & 7th November
- Availability of food choices for students has been discussed and a survey has been launched to gather data on dietary preferences. There have been 80 responses to the survey so far.
- Chris Whaley the Catering Manager has attended the meeting. Differences in pricing at outlets is due to differences in management, differing VAT obligations and differences in suppliers.
- The catering team are tasked with running a cost neutral service. There is a need to balance the desires of students with expectations.
- The Catering team now have a Facebook page where menus are published in advance.
- All University made chicken products are produced with halal chicken.
- There will be an improvement in the labelling of University produced food products so students are able to make an informed choice.

Action:

- Rebecca Pocock is to e-mail the survey link to Council members for circulation.

7. Motion – Creation and Preservation of Green Spaces on Campus

Noted:

- Francesca Anderson presented this motion in Chris Whitwood's absence.
- The Union would like to preserve and create more green spaces for students to use around Campus.

Discussed:

- The practicalities of maintaining and monitoring allotment on Campus, responsibility for the allotments. Management of volunteers on allotments.

Agreed:

- To amend the motion to exclude the creation of allotments available for students to use.

Noted:

- 24 students voted to amend the motion. There were no abstentions or votes against the amendment.
- 21 students voted to pass the amended motion, 0 students voted against it, there were 4 abstentions.

Agreed:

- The amended motion was passed.

8. Referendum – “Do you want Smoking Zones introduced on Campus?”

Noted:

- The referendum was not valid as less than 10% of the membership voted. There was a total of 422 votes.
- 49% of the membership were not in favour of the question.
- 51% of the membership were in favour of the question.
- The Executive committee discussed the way forward. The following options were presented:
 - Hold another vote using STV. Option 1 would be to take no action, option 2 would be to introduce smoking zones and option 3 would be to ban smoking altogether on campus.
 - This would not be binding on the SU but would produce evidence to inform policy.
 - Alternatively the marketing company used for the strategic review could include questions as part of their survey.

Noted:

- Students felt that promotion around the referendum was poor.
- Students would like to help promote the referendum to encourage participation.

9. Student Open Session

Nothing to note

10. Any Other Business

Noted:

- International Student week takes place next week. A piece of art made by students is planned to raise awareness of this week.
- Diwali (New Year Festival of Light) will be celebrated next week. There will be an event in the Atrium on the 15th November where students can have henna designs, food and join in dancing.
- Francesca Anderson wanted a vote of thanks to be minuted at Student Council :
“I would like it recognised that the Students’ Union appreciates the hard work and organisation the African-Caribbean Society and the Islamic Society put into the events they ran during black history month. ACS ran events throughout October from debates to guest speakers (including NUS Black Students Officer Aaron Kiely), to trips (International Slavery Museum, Liverpool). This work should be applauded and recognised. The Islamic Society also ran two events during Black History Month, focussing on Malcolm X and the impact Islam has made in the fight for the eradication of racism. This deserves recognition and thanks. I would also like to give a shout out to the Debating Society who planned an event but have postponed it to later in the year on ‘Does Racism Cut Both Ways’ which will be controversial but a good topic.”
- The Students’ Union made it into the top 3 at the Lincolnshire Sports Awards.
- The Lincoln School of Performing Arts has a new company called the “Lincoln Young Company”. They will be performing at the LPAC in February, Sheffield in March and Nationally later in the year. Like them on facebook.

12. Date of Next Meeting

7th December 2012 12-2pm in The Platform, The Engine Shed.

I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate summary of the meeting held on 9th November 2012, and have been approved by Student Council. These minutes will now be publicly available.

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Name (Chair)

.....
Date

Agreed