

Agenda

Wednesday 2nd November 2021

Time 3:00-5:00pm

Remotely- Teams

1. Attendance and Apologies

Members Present:

Connie Fernandes (CF), Noah Yates (NY), Archan Raval (AR), Kulvant Singh (KS), Wiktorja Swoboda (WS), Kira Nelson (KN), Vidya Kurre (VK), Layla Mohammed (LM), Hannah Knoerk (HK), Daisy Partridge (DP)

Apologies:

Tanvi Tondwalkar (TT) (Environmental and Ethics Officer) sends apologies but also submitted resignation due to work placement 9-5 commitments. TT would like to thank all for support.

No Apologies:

Georgina Wilson-Cousins (GWC)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Agreed. No amendments/comments.

3. Matters Arising

4. Update from Executive Officers

- a. Full time officer's reports – Verbal Updates

VPSA - CF

- Thanks to NY, EU students' fees are going to be fixed until 2024, approved by council. A big win for us. Counsel have not ironed it all out so not been advertised yet.
- Helping clubs – NY will elaborate. Demands submitted in a motion to Student Assembly, team Brunel committee member leading it.
- Reinvigorating RAG – things running better but needs to get on the ball with it as has not been a priority.
- Committees are happy they are kept up to date and they like open communication lines they have with us.

VPCEdPS - NY

- Demands being with CF and is connected to sexual health campaign, a lot of clubs seen boycotts and initially they wanted to boycott. NY thought it better to discuss with them to see what they want to achieve from a boycott? Encouraged them to have a conversation with venues before boycotting as likely it would not need to take place. Issues can be sorted without the need for it.
- Meetings coming up, NHS and a few charities, tailor it to specific groups of people. Spoke to other Universities, see what they doing and what's working.
- Brunel Design school should have had adobe for free, some said not worked so NY is looking into it. Most part adobe free. Design students have to buy an expensive laptop.

- Lots of University meetings, good things coming from lots of them. Pot of money for placements, would be useful for funding placements within the Union not just the University.

VPCBASS – AR

- Working on academic misconduct campaign, cases already there, back log and with CBASS and international in particular. Spoke with Mariann, some have had a response and with a date of re-sits.
- Met with Thomas Betteridge, dean of college, number of cases still there, chasing that. Discuss with TB tomorrow at meet and greet.
- MH awareness campaign, committee, campaign 2nd week of January, most exams are over and misconduct over (last week of November).

President - KS

- Fixed fees for international students. Still in process.
- Employability within university and graduate roles as well, spoke to a few companies who provide roles for students mainly CEDPS students, exploring more options not just for CEDPS
- Pushing University for adequate accommodation for students at the right price. After this week will have a conversation about laundry and if we should keep
- Revitalising social life, different events, Diwali and one Brunel.
- International country visas for international students that want to change the course. UKCISA does not allow international campaign.

We welcomed WS, the new VP CHLMS.

Part time officers

- b. Part-time Officer reports – Verbal Updates/Introductions
 - i. Part time officers will have different levels of reporting to do based on when they began their role/what they have done so can choose to update on plans for the year ahead if more appropriate

BME Officer - LM

- Nothing prepared. Focus on international PG students, no policies towards them especially with settling in country and helping financially. Understand the cultural barriers.
- Workshops with them, comes to mental health, new country and do not understand the barriers, the culture, workshops on MH and how to fit in and understand.
- Black History Month – proud, everything went well, better than expected.
- CF – Went so well, so much to be proud of, switching banners, hectic time, Ciara helped but do not take the merit off yourself.

International Officer - VK

No campaigns planned right now. Working for international students, issues came to him, one campaign is on his mind is one world week. other things, misconducts, international students not getting appointments for student well-being. Motions, policies so can get into campaigning.

RD – may be useful? NUS winter wellness campaign, targeting not used to British winter, to keep themselves healthy, resources online, just a thought.

George – Thanks, turn up to all random events, help moves boxes. Issues of students to the right place.

KS – issues in SA – weightlifting club, grateful for help.

Womens Officer - DP

- Talking about changing the name of that role, short list for different names to change it too. Have asked around. Bring short list to 2nd assembly meeting, vote on it.
- A nice relationship with Hillingdon's women's Centre, they want help with a campaign which is for international day for the elimination of violence against women. Want us to encourage students to create poetry to create awareness. Nice relationship.
- CF – Not included before, this girl can, open to women, non-binary focus on women and non-binary into sport, work with Hillingdon's women's shelter as well, involve you?

LGBT Officer – KN

- Very new. Main focus to learn as much as can about what the role will entail. Network with people, arrange meetings on what's possible, doesn't know where the ceiling is yet.
- Jess Kath – LGBT Staff – stuff in November – trans awareness week, transgender day for awareness, looking to do something for that as important to me. Mainly talking about in terms of events and things to plan for.
- Manifesto when set out, not had a chance to speak to anyone, not taken over from anyone, flying blind. Want to speak to previous officer, see if can contact her. Has a meeting as well with GB, start putting things into motion, now about learning as much as can is the goal for now.
- GB – welcome on board, you will be invited to other bits of training over the next few weeks.

5. Policy Prioritization Process

I. Homophobia and Transphobia Hate Crime Motion

- Since motion, the University have their own policy on this.
- Report and Support was not in place at this point.

2. Motion to improve the Circuit Laundry provisions on campus

- CL updated – officers are attending regular meetings with student living team. Arranging a face-to-face meeting with Managers at circuit laundry so we can express concerns directly rather than going just to the university. Going direct to the provider of the service around

the service students are experiencing and raising concerns to ensure the contractor understands the level of dissatisfaction. Larger scale discussion about future of laundry as contract is up for renewal next year so involved with conversations. What may laundry provision look like?

3. Motion to lobby the University to provide child friendly spaces on campus

- Little update but not a lot. Library had Covid restrictions not much happening. Least had been done for this motion. Child friendly spaces, mature students and carers society, accessible room for children and parents.

4. Motion opposing the Halls rent increase

- Straightforward. Few extra bits. Campaign against rising fees.

5. Motion for Young Carers

- Reporting on adult carers progress, working with WP and local groups. Widening access toolkit in place but fair bit of work to do.

6. Stop stressing our Mature and Postgraduates Students

- Not getting students out of halls until they have done their projects, not much progress. More work could definitely be done.

7. Enhancing the student experience for deaf Students

- Fair amount on this. Lobby adequate death awareness training. Support in place prior to start dates, highlight lack of death awareness can impact students.
- Training provided, weekly videos. All for that year not built-in long term, repeat this year?

8. Motion for Student Union to call for reduction in tuition fees

- Specific tasks assigned to it. Particular to the year it relates but still a campaign to be run if students think it is a priority.

9. Union to Lobby Brunel University to improve water fountain provision on campus

- Straightforward. There are some on campus but question of if there is enough, do we prioritise it?
- CL – Ongoing for several years, progress lost over Covid. Map of where you could refresh water bottles free of charge and at ease. Not fountains specially, dangerous, resistance.
- CF – limited places, we should be doing more, not a map we need more, I need water.

ACTION - CL – To dig in archives to find the latest of where we got with this, find maps etc.

10. For many of the climate policies, action has been partially taken but continuous effort is required

- Union to Lobby Brunel University to Divest by 2020 — climate change
- Union to lobby Brunel University London to declare Climate Change as an Emergency
- Motion for the Union and the University to emphasize the climate crisis and support the campaign
 - Recently voted in. JW not here to talk about. Work to be done.

II. Motion to lobby the University to create Multi-faith praying space on campus

CF – regularly raised with Jeremy tanner, bring it up pushing for it to be above Hamilton Centre, in Isambard not appropriate. No washroom facilities.

CL – exercise studio been converted while multi faith Centre built, 10 years ago, plans changed. Purpose built exercise studio not being used as an exercise studio.

Bex – Ranjeet started, idea was to have a place in the library to sit quietly. Not a religious symbol, space could be used for prayer if so wish. Latest heard was discussing what room should look like, so sounds like they agreed the space. Was it created and we do not know about it? Library – our students that might need to actively pray wouldn't have to walk across campus.

ACTION - going to contact Tim Wales –to determine if there was ever a “quiet space” actually set up in the Library and if it was back in use following Covid restrictions.

6. Any Other Business (AOB)

Any member would like to discuss AOB to raise issue or whatever it is.

- CF – Put together what SA works on campaign wise. Kira – if you want to be involved with that, will send around to everyone to make sure everyone can get involved.
- AR – If any international students, de-registration comes to you send them to me, so many students facing this problem currently.
- KN - Pronouns, society meet up, coming into venue/locos area, security stopped us and was really rude, did not understand pronouns and why they were on our shirts, explain, unnecessary and hostile, spoke to Jessica Kath about it, issue of awareness again. Extends to people that aren't lecturers, other employees?

AP – Action – look at that and do some specific training, briefing documents for them, external contractor forget to include them in conversations and work we do, not automatically include all those contracted. Draft something up, the whole piece, interaction with our customers, work to do, recommendations from students on how they can feel safer. Start process now and something we can deliver. AP I can do that.