

Executive Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday 26th April 2022

Time 4:00 -5:00pm

Remotely - Teams

1. Attendance and Apologies

In attendance:

- VP SA – Connie Fernandes (Chair)
- VP CEDPS – Noah Yeates
- VP CHMLS – Wiktoria Swoboda
- LGBT Officer – Kiran Nelson
- Craig Lithgow - CEO
- Andy Proudfoot – Head of Commercial Operations
- Francesca Stirling – Head of Communications and student engagement
- Rebecca Davies – HR and Compliance Manager
- Ruth Sharma – Head of student support and representation
- George Blake – Democracy and student engagement officer

Apologies from:

- VP CBASS – Archan Raval
- Womens Officer – Daisy Partridge
- BME Officer – Layla Ali
- Wiktoria confirmed she needed to leave after 30 minutes.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- KN confirmed pronouns are wrong. GB to amend.
- Minutes approved as accurate.
- **Action 1: Ruth to continue meetings and update us with progress in relation to multifaith prayer space.**
 - RS met with the Muslim Chaplain, Asgar, earlier on in the year (Jan) and Asgar confirmed he had already had conversations with senior leadership and has made some progress with finding a space on campus for a multifaith prayer space.
 - **Action RS to follow up with Asgar.**
- **Action 2: “NY explains that FTO’s meet with accommodation staff often therefore officers can discuss this in the next meeting”. Noah to update on whether further discussions have been had regarding postgraduate student accommodation deadlines running out before dissertation or assessment deadlines.**
 - NY spoke to Gwyn, the head of student living. Gwyn confirmed:
 - There are 40 allocated rooms in the hotel available at a student rate.
 - Where a student is taking over a room but is moving in late, the student residing in the room can stay in the room for longer.
 - 20 student asked last year and residences will be advertising earlier next year.

- NY confirmed that BUL are extending the tender process for circuit Landry and asked if anyone had any recommendations.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Update from Executive Officers

VP CEDPS – As read. Focus has been on sexual harassment campaign.

VP CHMLS - – As read. Focus has also been on sexual harassment campaign.

VP SA – As read.

LGBT Officer – attended NUS Liberation conference on own. Provided GB with live updates. On campus been working with Henrietta on training, there may be a delay until next AY as students are not really around.

5. Motion Transferred from SA

International Officer was having technical difficulties and would be 30 minutes so was not in attendance for the discussion. See Appendix 3a & b for the motion and the minutes from Student Assembly.

“VP SA provided RS with an explanation of reasoning as to why she recommended the motion be considered at exec. Email sent but not in the pack to GB copied into the chat, as below:

*VPSA Connie requested that the motion brought to the last SA to **Reinvigorate One Brunel** should be brought to executive committee to allow the international officer an opportunity to clearly get across what he is seeking from the motion and what his ideas are as the motion was vague and contradictory in parts.*

On one hand the motion states “The sabbatical officers should be responsible to make this One Brunel happen every year irrespective of whoever is in the position.” And “The Sabbatical Officers should take the responsibility to make sure the One Brunel is delivered to its members every year.”; on the other hand, the motion states “The campaign for all events under this One Brunel will be led by International Students Officer.” This is contradictory.

Furthermore, there is mention of a One Brunel working group which already occurs and has done since One Brunel was in place “The One Brunel working group should commence every year prior to the start of the academic year and decide the series of events to be celebrated for the coming academic year.” There was a One Brunel working group from the beginning of the academic year and in that meeting it was agreed that the President would take a lead on events but this did not transpire, how do we ensure this is not the case in the future?

- *One of the sabbatical officers will take lead and this should be decided in the first One Brunel Working Group that commence.*
 - *Will this be allocated or will it be based on interest? What is accountability if the allocated person does not follow through?*

- *The One Brunel March should take place once in a year unless there are government restrictions.*
 - *What if the students and the lead do not want to do a march that year? Surely this should be driven by the students and their wants and not on restrictions?*
- *All the events under One Brunel for the academic year are decided in the first One Brunel Working Group.*
 - *It is going to be incredibly difficult to make a plan for the whole academic year around what One Brunel will be doing in one meeting, do discussions need to start before the academic year commences?*
- *The campaign for all events under this One Brunel will be led by International Students Officer. This includes reaching out to all the societies, engaging the societies in One Brunel, ensuring that the societies are contributing to the One Brunel by participating.*
 - *So is the International Officer leading in conjunction with officers? What about societies?"*

Exec discussion:

CF – further commented that we all believe work should be done on One Brunel but unsure what the motion is adding to change that?

GB – With the quality of the motion it is hard to see why it is beneficial.

RS – Have we had a revised version of the motion from the international officer? GB – No.

RD – Why does it need a motion? Is it a campaign? Seems like a project which would fall under the operational side with empowerment from the officers.

CL – It is important to note that we have made the commitment, provided funding as it is a project to champion diversity and share culture with everyone else. It sits on the operational side and FS is reviewing it so it is delivered through structure. One idea is for it to sit with societies guild with oversight from officers' input and guidance.

After discussion it was decided that a motion was not needed for the One Brunel project and plans were already underway to review One Brunel and how it is lead. Once a plan is in place, a statement will be released on how it is to be managed.

FS will ensure this is ready for the next executive committee.

FS – Next year will be different.

6. AOB

Post-election update from CL

We have declared the initial results and then usually once we have dealt with final complaints, the RO would declare the elections free and fair but this has not happened as a result of a high number of complaints BUL have received which revolve around bullying, harassment, threats and intimidation. Also concerning the conduct of certain members of the election committee.

BUL have brought in Intersol global to do an investigation which is going to take longer than expected, so results confirmation has been postponed.

The situation is that we don't know where we are. Outcomes could be that they decide elections can be considered as free and fair, it could be considered null and void or there may be a re-run of 2,3 5 elections.

CL is having conversations with NUS and BUL about options moving forward and trustees will also need to be involved if it is decided the elections are null and void. If this is the case we will need to think of ways to uphold our representation and democracy with BUL and according to charities commission. We need to ensure we fulfil our obligations and find solutions that sit outside our constitutional boundaries.

Exec social

RD reminded members that there are funds still available to do a social.

Members to have a think and let RD know of ideas by the end of next week.