



## UNION COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on **Thursday 8 November 2007**

### PRESENT:

Leo Wilson	Block of Six Officer
Jonathan Walsh	Block of Six Officer
Craig Waling	Observer
Steve Donlon	Chair, Lonsdale JCR
Chris Isaac	Observer
Phil Miles	Observer
Alistair Bird	GSA General Secretary
Rachel Bowyer	Nightline Service Director
Mpo Chitsunge	Race Relations Officer
Johnathan Ilott	LU Cinema President
Sean Arani	Grizedale JCR President
Deborah Dilworth	County JCR President
Simon White	Pendle JCR President
Fran Hall	Rag President
Gareth Coleman	AU Non-sabbatical Officer
David Bonner	Academic Affairs Officer
Ryan Bate	Science & Technology Faculty Rep
Janie Coleman	Bowland JCR President
Mark Hinson	Societies Union Chair
Catherine Kealey	Block of Six Officer
James Barnard	Furness JCR President
Kenny Donohue	Bailrigg FM Station Director
Richard Bennett	Chief Returning Officer
Iain MacDonald	Part-time Students' Officer
Steven Shaw	Students with Disabilities Officer
Ewan Gelling	Green Officer
Laura McGhee	LUSU Women's Officer
Dan Ratcliffe	Block of Six Officer
Joe Beech	SCAN Editor
James Marengi	AU President
Chris Cottam	LUSU Education & Welfare Officer
Tim Roca	LUSU President
Adam MacNicholas	NUS NEC
Sarah Ruane	Fylde JCR President
Jon Smith	LUSU General Secretary
Michael Payne	UC Chair / Block of Six Officer
Ben Singleton	UC Deputy Chair / Block of Six Officer

### APOLOGIES:

Fraser Welsh	Arts & Social Sciences Faculty Rep
Craig Bush	International Students' Officer
Sarah Baguley	Non-sabb Women's Officer

### STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Elliott	LUSU General Manager
Jo Hardman	Business Development Manager
Louise Davies	Venue Manager – Sugar House
Veronica Longmire	Departmental Administrator [Minutes]

#### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 25 October 2007

It was noted that Leo Wilson was in attendance at the previous meeting and that Ryan Bate, Dan Ratcliffe and Janie Coleman had forwarded apologies.

**Minutes approved**

There were no Matters Arising.

#### 2. PRESENTATION / REPORT: THE SUGAR HOUSE

Jo Hardman and Louise Davies, Venue Manager were present at the meeting. Jo Hardman stated that due to decreasing attendances during the previous year, a major re-think had taken place at the beginning of the summer 07. Sabbatical officers were present and had questioned every aspect of the club. A number of good ideas came from the meeting and changes effected.

These included more promotions, cuts in prices, 50p cloakroom, ents, dance nights, live music, and working with colleges and the University of Cumbria.

Overall, feedback to date had been positive. Noted that to continue improving feedback from everyone was very important.

Reported that Thursdays were not doing well and ideas to improve this were being considered. Customers were coming into the club one hour later than previously which had an impact on drinks sales.

Stated that income received was channelled back into funding activities of Union Council, sub-committees, and other areas of the organisation.

Thanks were passed to the Sugar House Managers for dealing with a very difficult time in the previous year and for their recent hard work. The sabbatical officers were also thanked for their support.

Questions were raised regarding the long term, the venue's competitors, the importance of the club versus college bars, queuing, Friday night events and the development of working with JCRs / colleges. The General Manager stated that if the Sugar House were to close it would be sold and possibly purchased by an organisation which would target students. This would further impact on college bars. Jo and Louise were thanked for attending the meeting.

#### 3. FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of 1 November [GM/07/77] were ratified.

#### 4. INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

Jon Smith stated that nominations for elections were now open and that hustings would take place on the evening of Monday week 7. Promotion would include flyerling, some postering and leaflets answering questions about standing in student elections. Council was encouraged to attend hustings and thanks passed to Richard Bennett, the Chief Returning Officer for standing for the post.

Date for general meeting still under discussion.

**ACTION: Jon Smith**

In response to a question raised regarding Wednesday afternoons, it was stated that a recent LUSU/LU Senior Officers' meeting had agreed departments should not be scheduling compulsory lectures on Wednesday afternoons.

Chris Cottam reported that housing talks for continuing students would be held in weeks 6 & 7. He was working with the University on attending these talks.

Tim Roca stated that the initials 'CPI' should, in fact, read 'RPI' [retail price index] and that this was working against students in the rent negotiations.

The University was to sign a new master plan with UPP albeit the plan itself was not yet available to the University.

Information regarding college bars would be brought to the next meeting as the University 'Gold' report was due and meetings arranged with JCRs and College Principals.

**ACTION: Tim Roca**

At the recent Colleges & Residences meeting a proposal had been made by LUSU that first year students living off-campus should be given first refusal on campus rooms for the next year. College Principals had rejected the proposal. Sean Arani was applauded for his performance at the meeting.

The RS17 issue with the University had been resolved. LUSU would not be responsible for its staff pensions liability.

The Science Park proposals were to be discussed soon and it was felt that it would be beneficial for Council to have an opinion on this, with a proper debate and firm policy.

**ACTION: Tim Roca**

#### 6. **REPORT ON NUS DEMOCRACY WHITE PAPER**

Adam McNicholas, NUS National Executive Committee, attended the meeting and hoped to convince Council on the merits of the proposals. He stated there was a need to have a national union which could control its costs and govern effectively and efficiently.

The background was that a review of NUS' governance had been commissioned at the annual conference and a Steering Group established.

Adam then gave a brief resume of what was a lengthy and complex issue, together with a breakdown of the proposed new structure. He also informed Council that an extraordinary conference had been called for 4 December 2007 where the proposals would be discussed.

Adam was thanked for his succinct and informative presentation.

The main question raised was how could the student membership at Lancaster be informed and know what was going on.

#### 7. **MOTION TO SAVE NUS DEMOCRACY**

After some discussion and suggested amendments to the motion a proposal that the Question now be put was made. A speech for and against was taken.

There were 17 votes For [not discussing the motion further] and 7 votes Against.

**The motion was defeated**

#### 8. **MOTION ON STATUS OF COLLEGE BARS**

This item was withdrawn to allow further information to be put together. This to come back to next meeting.

**ACTION: Proposer**

#### 9. **RATIFICATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

Bye-Law 14 – Constitution of Rag Committee was ratified with one small amendment.

Bye-Law 24 – Constitution of the Athletic Union was ratified.

Bye-Law 19 – Constitution of Furness College [tabled at the meeting] was ratified.

Bye-Law 17 – Constitution of Cartmel College [tabled at the meeting] was ratified.

Bye-Law 18 – Constitution of County College [tabled at the meeting] was ratified.

Bye-Law 22 – Constitution of Lonsdale College [tabled at the meeting] had a questions raised on a number of issues. Council was asked to note that the constitution had been passed by a college general meeting. The constitution was ratified with 5 votes Against and 1 abstention.

Those colleges who had submitted constitutions for ratification were requested to forward these, electronically, to the Council Chair and LUSU Departmental Administrator [Veronica Longmire].

**ACTION: JCR Presidents to act on this**

#### 10. **RATIFICATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the AU general meeting held on 1 October 07 were ratified.

#### 11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Agenda for the first Joint JCR Social Committee had been circulated to social secretaries. Meeting scheduled for Thursday 15 November at 6:00pm in Furness LT3.

SAAR – two events taking place within coming two weeks.

Council asked to think about the siting of barbecues in order to feed back to the University as they wished to place these in a specific area.

Council asked to please get involved in the elections as they are hard work and any help would be welcome.

Volunteers to sit on Graduate College ballot box needed.

Veronica Longmire  
12 November 2007