



UNION COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on **Thursday 6 December 2007**

PRESENT:

Michael Payne	Block of Six & Council Chair
Ben Singleton	Block of Six & Deputy Chair
Fraser Welsh	Arts & Social Sciences Faculty Rep
Steven McCann	Observer
Dan Ratcliffe	Block of Six Officer
Paul Davies	Block of Six-elect
Joe Beech	SCAN Editor
Jonathan Walsh	Block of Six Officer
Ryan Bate	Science & Technology Faculty Rep
James Marengi	AU President
Jon Smith	LUSU General Secretary
Richard Bennett	Chief Returning Officer
Kenny Donohue	Bailrigg FM Station Manager
James Barnard	Furness JCR President
Janie Coleman	Bowland JCR President
Berni Denston	Bowland JCR President-elect
Laura McGhee	LUSU Women's Officer
Ewan Gelling	Environmental & Ethics Officer
Sarah Baguley	Non-Sabbatical Women's Officer
Catherine Kealey	Block of Six Officer
Mark Hinson	Societies Union Chair
Sean Arani	Grizedale JCR President
Fran Hall	Rag President
Rachel Bowyer	Nightline Service Director
Ann-Kathrin Marchloewski	GSA Academic Affairs Officer
Siddharth Bhutoria	GSA Treasurer
Pinush Soni	GSA General Secretary
Dhrupad Jhaveri	GSA President
Ramul Jhanji	GSA Vice-President
Mohammed Faraaz	GSA Social Secretary
Rushabh Javeri	GSA Sports Director
Alex Caw	Part-time Students' Officer-elect
David Bonner	Academic Affairs Officer
Tim Roca	LUSU President
Chris Cottam	LUSU Education & Welfare Officer

APOLOGIES:

Gareth Coleman	AU Non-Sabbatical Officer
Diane Barrow	Cartmel JCR President
Iain MacDonald	Part-time Students' Officer
Craig Bush	International Students' Officer
Johnathan Ilot	LU Cinema President

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Elliott	LUSU General Manager
Veronica Longmire	Departmental Administrator [Minutes]

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that Kenny Donohue, Bailrigg FM Station Manager was present at the meeting. The minutes of 22 November 2007 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Lonsdale & Bowland JCRs were reminded to forward their revised constitutions to the Departmental Administrator [Veronica] before the end of term.

3. PRESENTATION: LUSU STRATEGIC PLAN

Item jointly presented by Peter Elliott, LUSU General Manager and Tim Roca, LUSU President. It was noted that the plan would be developed over the coming months and would include the following subjects:

- Governance - re-invigoration of all Union structures, constitution, Charities Act, Risk management, clarity on policy development and decision-making.
- Space / Physical Facilities - additional space for LUSU, new Sports Centre, refurbishment of LU Cinema, new societies space.
- Sports Development - implementation of AU review, LUSU elements of sports strategy
- Postgraduates - involvement / engagement
- International Members - engagement, support, impact of study group, cultural understanding
- Democracy & Representation – active members v consumers, transparency, activism, e-voting, more open feedback, lack of accountability, dilution of the power of LUSU messages
- Student Experience Agenda – 1994 Group and benchmarking, partnership working model
- People Development – accreditation of non-academic achievement, increased training activities, further develop society new officer training, LUVU / Create, LU HR policy / LUSU HR strategy
- Finance & Resources – every plan needs a financial strategy, prioritisation, future proofing of ICT, Alumni / fund raising, SEF
- Academic Representation – seats on committees to be defined, the NUS agenda, hearing the learner voice, plagiarism, QAA
- JCR Development – to be properly resourced, clear roles, recognition
- The Higher Education Agenda – impact of fees review in 2009, government agenda
- Local Issues – socialising in town, students getting recognised, being neighbourly, green issues
- Income Generation & Services – decline in licence trade / future prospects for the Sugar House, retail development, housing, marketing, Purplecard, development of new income streams
- Welfare, Equal Opps & Ethics – under-representation of key student groups, 24-hour LUSU Advice web service, GreenLancaster

ACTION: Elections Sub-committee

- University Issues & Challenges – implications of this, new medical school, colleges / bars and retail strategy, impact of facilities development, international collaborations
- Future Steps – plenary session at NOT, consultation / forums, talk to University.

Draft plan to be prepared late in the Lent term and a final version of the plan brought to Council in May for approval [would include next year's budget]. Plan would then go to University meetings in May and June for agreement. A printed copy of the presentation was circulated to Council and Peter and Tim thanked for the report.

4. **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the special meeting held on 22 November [GM/07/82] and the meeting held on 26 November [GM/07/83] were ratified. It was noted that the Friends Programme committee had not yet met.

5. **INFORMATION & QUESTIONS**

It was noted that Rag week would now be in week 6 of the Lent term. Further information given by the sabbatical officers was noted. Verbal information was then given by David Bonner, Dan Ratcliffe, Ben Singleton, Richard Bennett, Laura McGhee on behalf of Craig Bush, Fraser Welsh and Michael Payne. The tabled document from Ryan Bate was noted.

6. **NUSSL SOUND IMPACT AWARDS**

Withdrawn until next meeting. **ACTION: LUSU President**

7. **SABBATICAL OFFICERS' ANNUAL LEAVE**

The interim report, tabled at the meeting, was noted.

8. **TUITION FEES**

It was noted that the report of the Working Party set up had been to investigate the impact of tuition fees. At University Council it was suggested that the report required debate and at some point in 2008 a full debate would take place. Details about this were not currently clear.

9. **DISCUSSION ITEM: LUSU NON-SABBATICAL ELECTORAL PROCESS**

Discussion was opened with the question 'What do people think about the current process and should new ideas be looked at?'. It was noted that there had been a good turn-out for the recent elections and the General Secretary was applauded for this.

Issues included that the strengths and weaknesses of the current processes were currently being discussed by Elections sub-committee, the fact top candidates were advantaged over other candidates, e-voting, concentrated promotion of elections, campaigning, randomising ballot papers, biases, fairness of any process and that all current officers had an obligation to promote elections.

It was recognised there were faults with the system but felt there were also benefits. All points raised would be passed to Elections Sub-committee.

10. **NUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTIONS**

A full report of the extra-ordinary conference would be brought to a future meeting.

ACTION: Conference Delegation

The document tabled were the amendments to the White Paper passed at the conference.

The amendment, consistently voted on at the conference, and which failed, was to give Liberation Campaigns a seat on the Board. Council was asked to support the amendment and after clarification and discussion of various issues it was **AGREED** to send the amendment forward.

11. **RATIFICATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes tabled were ratified with 2 abstentions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

All outgoing Officers were thanked for their work over the past year. The General Secretary stated that LUSU would like to thank all Council and JCR officers by inviting them to the Sugar House on Friday, week 10. More information about this would be circulated soon.

ACTION: LUSU General Secretary

Veronica Longmire
10 December 2007