**Annual Members Meeting 2022: Minutes**

1. **Introduction from the Chair and overview of AMM: an introduction from the Chair giving an overview of how the Annual Members Meeting will works [5 minutes]**

The Chair gave an explanation of AMM, including what motions are and how they are used and the process of debating. The Chair directed Members to the Democratic Help Desk and informed Members that voting takes place after the meeting. Members were then directed to the Code of Conduct to note.

1. **Students Union Affiliations: an approval of the affiliations that the Students Union have currently. [5-10 mins]**

The Chair acknowledged Bristol SU’s Affiliation with the NUS and associated Affiliation Fee (£37,500 [check]).

1. **Policy Lapse and Renewal [10-40 minutes]    
     
   Boycott Barclays**

The Chair asked Members if anyone objects to this policy being renewed. No objections. **Boycott the Border Industry**

The Chair asked Members if anyone objects to this policy being renewed. No objections. **Support for the Movement Against Immigration Detention and the Hostile Environment.**

The Chair asked Members if anyone objects to this policy being renewed. No objections. **ACCESS BREAK**

The Chair provided an Access Break, requesting that Members return at 16:42.

1. **Motions [1hr 30 minutes] - estimated 1 hr, dependent on how many motions are proposed**

**Motion 1: To install Ripple on all University IT infrastructure to help prevent suicides [Content Warning (CW) for discussion of s\*icide]**

The Chair invited the Proposer, Ben Kitchener, to give a statement lasting no longer than 90 seconds.

Ben Kitchener (BK) provided a statement, preempting this with a CW of speech around mental health and s\*icide:  
*The motion calls for the Chrome browser Ripple to be put on all SU computers and to lobby the University to put this on University computers. Ripple flags key terms related to self harm or ending your life and gives a pop-up message to offer people help when they might not realize they need it. It’s mainly for early intervention. Ripple doesn’t store user data so there are no issues with GDPR or user privacy. It’s a prevention tool, with the intention of stopping people going into the ‘darker side’ of the internet. It would mean a lot to see across Uni infrastructure and hopefully it helps at least one person.*

The Chair asked for a speech against the motion: no Member gave a speech against the motion.

The Chair asked for questions for the proposer: no questions received.

**Motion 2: Bristol SU to oppose the University’s Expansion**

The Chair invited the Proposer, Ruth Day (RD), to give a statement lasting no longer than 90 seconds:

*The University has expanded year after year. We are at breaking point: it’s hard to get a seat in the library, lecture halls are bursting and it’s impossible to find a house in Bristol this year. We need a strong mandate to oppose this. We do not want another year like this one, where students are forced to live in a different city (Bath), isolated from campus and university life; to give future officer teams a strong steer and concerted effort over many years to come. Vote for this motion to give the Officer team the mandate to act on this.*

The Chair asked for a speech against the motion: no Member gave a speech against the motion.

The Chair asked for questions for the proposer.

Ishan [check last name]:   
*What’s the University’s policy in terms of expansion? Do they plan to expand each year or well in advance?*

RD:   
*Yeah, they have long term plan but then reassess year on year. At the moment they’re reassessing it. We have a bit of a window to influence this decision. Because we took in too many students last year, the University are more willing to change this than they usually would be, and we are in discussions already about this. It would be useful to have a mandate: this would make our voices more ‘valid’ to the University.*

**Motion 3: Protecting Students in Nightclubs and Bars**

The Chair invited the Proposer, RD, to give a statement lasting no longer than 90 seconds:  
*This mandate is renewing an old motion which would have lapsed but I have updated this to include SU support against spiking promotion [sic]. No one should feel unsafe on a night out: we’re asking for zero tolerance policy, drink toppers and [anti-]spiking kits. Future Officers should campaign for the University to continue funding this. Majority of issues are with the local nighttime economy: proposing that Officers work with and lobby local council and venues to have a proper zero tolerance policy. I urge you to mandate this so all students can have a safer night out.*

The Chair asked for a speech against the motion: no Member gave a speech against the motion.

The Chair asked for questions for the proposer: no questions received.

**Motion 4: Update Byelaw 9 to increase clarity, reduce bureaucracy and ensure all groups remain student-led**

The Chair invited the Proposer, Ifrah Farooq (IF), to give a statement lasting no longer than 90 seconds. Obafemi Alabi (OA) on behalf of IF:  
*Byelaws set out essential governance regarding affiliated groups. Section 9 needs to be updated to set out in clear terms for students what’s expected from them, and what they can expect from the SU. It currently uses old terminology, potentially limiting student leadership. Non-students can stand for all [?]. This section of the byelaws has not been updated for at least 8 years, possibly decades: we need to bring them fully up to date. Redrafting this section of byelaws to ensure clarity, reduce bureaucracy and administration and ensure student groups are truly student led.*

The Chair asked for a speech against the motion: no Member gave a speech against the motion.

The Chair asked for questions for the proposer: no questions received.

**Motion 5: Mandatory Network Committee Position and Byelaw 7 Changes**

The Chair invited the Proposer, IF, to give a statement lasting no longer than 90 seconds:

*The aim of motion is to reform our network structures, to make them easier and more effective. This has come about from various feedback that our representation structure could be improved. Proposing five mandatory roles for networks: Vice Chair, Events Officer, Communications Officer, Welfare Officer and Equality & Diversity Officer. This will exclude the Education Network and remaining faculty reps. Postgraduate Network would have one for PGR taught and one for PGR research [check]. This new system fosters better engagement, more support for the Chair and ultimately, better representation for the students.*

The Chair asked for a speech against the motion: no Member gave a speech against the motion.

The Chair asked for questions for the proposer: no questions received.

1. **Full-Time Officer Update**

The Chair asked Full-Time Officers to provide an update on their work, lasting no longer than 90 seconds.

**Sebastian Key (SK):***Working with QAA on assessment reforms; speaking with University on the structure of academic year which is very closely linked to how to do assessments, going forward. Working on the Decolonisation of the Curriculum, looking at what different schools are individually doing on this. I’m working on the personal tutoring role description and what is planned for next year is in keeping with what students have said. Met with people from Langford and the abattoir[?] to discuss the ethical side of the abattoir and reporting back on that. Looking into SU block grant and how we could get more money; divesting from fossil fuels and strikes.***Lu Macey (LM):**

*I met with relevant stakeholders from Wellbeing Counselling Services. Working with Student Services and Wellbeing Advisors to give relevant training on postgraduate student issues and the language used. Consulting postgraduate students on changes to study spaces. Work on pilot for new community building scheme for PGRs. Planning a PGR Summer Celebration and ‘Celebrating Successes’ event. Continued work on leading academic representatives. Took part in the first ever series of roundtable discussions on the University Mental Health Charter. I’m also looking at Sport, Exercise and Health opportunities.*

**Muazam Tahir (MT):**

*Met with SAR (Student Action for Refugees) to plan a fundraising ball during Refugee Week in June. Attended the Communities and Development workshop. Also attended Careers and Skills Framework workshop. I’m currently working to provide training to academics working with students from different global communities and this came as a result of my meeting with different faculty reps, directors [check], where we were discussing the potential for a more uniform approach for mental health issues that are specific to International Students. I also worked to mobilise the International Students Support Group and worked with the university management processes - there’s more clarity of what the group is now, with better standards of representation for International Students in University processes. I also generated awareness of the situation in Pakistan in University spaces, to mitigate the impact on prospective applicants; some students are studying remotely as a result of some conflict that arose in their country. As an Officer team, we completed our Team Development Sessions. Ifrah and I took part in a group for Global Engagement (GE) with the Vice Chancellor for GE. Met with Thangam Debbonaire, who is the MP for Bristol West, to discuss nationality and borders. Seb and I have our first meeting of People and Culture Committee and recently had our first Trustee meeting.*

**RD:***Around wellbeing, I’ve heard student concerns around longer wait times, and been lobbying the Uni to rectify this. They are hiring, and continuing to hire a lot more staff, and I’ll continue to push them to make things better. I’ve been working with the new Uni Trans Counsellors to develop a Trans Student Therapy group, been developing S\*icide Prevention Campaign, ran two SHAG weeks with Leah, two All About Drugs weeks, promoting harm reduction with new residences rules which aren’t as punitive to students caught in possession. I’ve been working on Sexual Violence with Leah and Ifrah and working to get mandatory consent classes for Welcome next year and ran a Safer Night Out Campaign. On housing, I’ve been lobbying for cheaper rents for next year, pushing for cheaper washing in halls, ran a My Rent My Rights campaign, been looking into setting up a Students’ Tenants Union, Muazam and I have been pushing the Uni to set up an inhouse Guarantor service, supporting the Bristol Student Housing Co-Op to commission a building survey on what might be their future home. On sustainability, Lou and I set up the Zero Waste Shop, Seb and I have began planning for the Climate Emergency Day of Action and I’ve continued work with the Uni to develop an ethical partnership policy and the Sabbatical Team have been lobbying the Uni on expansion of student numbers. I’ve booked a bus for the NUS 2nd March student strike in London, get in touch if you want a free seat, and Leah and I are running a SHAG week crossover with LGBT+ History Month 7pm at Cloak and Dagger on Thursday 17th February.*

**Leah Martindale (LM):***Helena (Chair of the Disability and Accessibility Network) and I have been sitting in the Disabled Students’ Experience Committee, which led to a series of recommendations made to the University focusing on our neurodiverse students and students with mental health concerns. Ruth and I contributed to the University’s Mental Health Charter Award. Seb, Ifrah, Oba and I have been working towards the University’s Race Equity charter. Been looking at careers’ advice for our part-time Officers and how we can improve the offer we give to our volunteers, as part of the Democracy Review with Lu and Ifrah. Oba and I launched Rainbow Laces in collaboration with Sports, Exercise and Health. It will have a series of reactive sessions which we’ll ringfence for LGBTQ+ students to look at where our sports are inaccessible. Oba and I started working on a Communities and Sense of Belonging research project within the SU. I attended a Universities UK roundtable on freedom of speech and EDI, which will hopefully help me with reforming the Bristol SU Complaints Process.*

**OA:**

*Over the last few months, I’ve been working on BAME representation in sports and looking at how we can provide grassroots support in terms of increasing and improving the representation when it comes to sports, intramural and sports clubs. Been working in partnership with SEH and the Be More Empowered section of the Uni. I’ve been working on the Voi partnership with the SU and looking at how we can increase the range of Vois, so that they can get to Stoke Bishop, Coombe Dingle, and specifically so we can have a parking spot for Vois at Coombe Dingle. I’ve been to three Club Captain Forums where we discuss ongoing issues clubs are facing within, in relation to the SU or SEH. I’ve been working with relevant SU staff to develop the Wellbeing Strategy for student groups, to make sure that there’s more of a relation between student groups, the Wellbeing Service, and the SU when it comes to mental health and wellbeing, and I’ve been working on the Rainbow Laces campaign, looking at how we can make it less tokenistic – (90 second limit reached).*

**IF:**

*Successfully lobbied the University to extend Senate House open hours to cover the weekend, Muazam and I sat on a focus group and interviewed applicants for the position of Pro-Vice Chancellor for Student Engagement [check]. I sit on various committees to represent student experiences, this includes the Anti-Racism Steering Group, Student Experience Committee and the University Civic Engagement Committee. I’ve been preparing for a consultation with the Office for Students on the TEF framework. I’ve also consulted with the Careers Service on the app they’re developing and met with the Office for Students on a separate consultation to offer feedback on their Student Engagement strategy. I chair the Democracy Action Group and have been progressing our internal Democracy Review, including Officer Role Review, met with Careers Service and Student Inclusion to discuss increasing BAME Alumni engagement, I’ve began planning for the Society Awards in June, Oba and I recently did Group Grants Panel and Activity Hardship Funding Panels.*

The Chair asked for questions for the Officers: no questions received.

1. **AOB**

The Chair thanked Members for their attendance and informed attendees that the ballot for motions would be open 16/02/2022. The Chair reminded Members wishing to run for elections to nominate themselves before 23rd February and invited IF to give a final update. IF signposted Members to the Rate My Group survey which is now open until 28/02/2022.

The Chair closed the meeting at 17:10.