

Student Representative Assembly

Thursday 17th October 2024, 16:00-19:00

Attendees:

Apologies: Ella Lovibond (Sport & Student Development Officer)

Chair: Louis Anscombe

Minutes: Elisha Rodrigo

Agenda

Abbreviations	
LP	Lucy Pears
GC	Gurvin Chopra
BJ	Bakhtawar Javed
KP	Katie Poyner
MS	Mia Stevens
LY	Linlu Ye
EL	Ella Lovibond
Q	Question
A	Answer
R	Remarks

Item	Led by	Minutes
Introductions <i>Please introduce yourself with your name, your role and your pronouns if you feel comfortable to.</i>	Chair of Student Council	- Introduction of the order of the meeting - This is a chance to explore spaces for collaboration on common issues - Taking a brief look at the policy. Seeing what people like and want to carry forward - Making decisions on who the best people to collaborate with will be - Bids will be done differently this year. Not to be used for events money, but instead for collaborative campaigns/ to work on an issue
Q&A for the Full-Time Officer Team <i>A chance for you to ask any questions to your Full-Time Officers about their work.</i> <i>They will offer 3 key impacts</i>	Chair, Full-Time Officer Team	- LP updates on policy passed in SC (Student Council). A motion for officers to investigate the university abattoir. LP had a meeting with the university sustainability department. The officers are yet to go and visit, but is something the officers are working on. - Action: to gather information during this visit and report back to the student reps when appropriate.

		- 5 points were given by the sustainability department in support of the abattoir: the abattoir provides services to local businesses, budget ends up at local businesses, national shortage of vets (higher rate of qualified vets coming out of the University), the hides are sent to be reused into leather. - WIN: Suicide Prevention-> anti- suicide software onto software that the university has - Final update: LP needs support on the issue of transport in order to gain traction on the issue. - EL: Further updates not in the pack. - Derby day date confirmed= 26th of March - Working on gender inclusivity in sport - Working with women in rugby (Bristol Bears) - Worked with Katie on the hardship fund and it's increase. - Questions: Transport and buses-> concerns about temple quarters and there being transported provided to temple quarters (will be there transport provided to TQ?) - Latest LP has heard-> the university have been looking into active transport. - GC-> staff away day stating that transports is also a huge concern for staff in regard to temple quarter - Q: How does the anti- suicide software work? (Does it track your account/ searches) - A: LP (software on devices that are university owned rather than personal devices) - GC update: further updates - Student poverty-> rent a blazer scheme. Meeting up/collaborating with the careers service - Collective wellbeing-> targeting mature students. - Holding family, friendly movie nights. Creating a community of parents and their children within the University - Academic accessibility-> ensuring students who apply later in the year still have access to opportunities/ financial aid. - LY: Updates - Free period products
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		- Still in conversations with the university about where the money for the free period products will come from - Looks promising right now however - Issues with communication around multi- lingual councillors and how students can access them - Wants to do a survey on whether students find these councillors useful/ are able to find them using university services - Would like some feedback from students on why people haven't engaged with the councillors - Q: Feedback panel from English. Counselling support= a lack of clarity on communication and getting the SU and university to have clearing communication - A: wellbeing provided by the university, but understanding that it's difficult to find what you are looking for. Try to involve the SU marketing team (e.g Instagram stories etc) to make it more accessible - What is the harm reduction kit? - A: explanation of what is in the hard reduction kit (lube, condoms, information on how to engage with drugs safely etc) - LP: liaising with the deputy head of wellbeing and they asked for student feedback regarding how students interact with the website and the app. - University shifting the self request form to a self- booking form - Q: Who is the supplier for the menstrual supplier - A: A company hey girls? - Q: Do the university choose who the supplier is or is their student choice in the matter? - A: The University choose. - Q: There should be more clarification on the process of hoe to get support for wellbeing. Central information (maybe a graphic to make the process clear) - KP: Updates - Activity hard ship fund increased to £200 - First round gave out around £21,000 - Made the criteria for the fund more humanising/ clear - Booking spaces-> still in its early stages
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		- Hoping to expand their scope. Hoping to utilise seminar spaces for other purposes - 100s years campaign. Made a digital birthday card for the SU - Q: booking spaces. Staff get a webroom booking system where you can book empty rooms. Is there scope for students to do this? - A: hoping to do something similar, and is something Katie is working on. - Action: will reach out to IT to ask if this is a possibility to create something similar for students - MS: Updates - - assessment feedback - NSS (National Students' Survey) -> Bristol consistently does bad on assessment feedback - Working with SU Research and Insight into discrepancies in feedback - Presenting such feedback to the faculty education members - An oversight board-> teaching excellence framework. This morning Mia has been asked to deliver a paper on a call to action on assessment feedback for students. Will deliver finding to this group. - Personal tutoring- university are reviewing their personal tutor system - Updating their comms on what the role of the personal tutor is - Request for people to share their experiences for this. - Setting up events for commuter events to build community for those who can't involve in evening activities - Q: is the work on assessment feedback/ tutoring for both postgrad and undergrad? - A: Yes especially the feedback work - Q: There are often mistakes on the exam papers, will this be investigated? - A: It is something that can be discussed - Q: Can faculty reps enter this conversation to then take feedback back to their faculties? - A: Something that they will look into to see if that's a possibility? - Q: When do we have to give feedback? - A: Feedback to MS welcomed until early/ mid November. - BJ
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		- Updates - Socialising aspect on bridging the gap for international students. Issues on identity and belonging - Lobbying the University to have an international students support team - When IS face issues, they do not know who the first point of contact is - Action: to do more research with the R n I team to see how international students are engaging with the current support systems - Guarantor scheme: lobbying the university, but have hit the wall - Agreed to some actions, but more lobbying is now being done with NUS - Will be going to parliament to speak to our MPs about these issues - Workshop for international students on English slang - Celebration of international students week. a major event will be the Global food fair. International societies will come together at this event.
Campaigns & Democracy Update <i>An update regarding Student Council motions, as well as hear from Network Chairs about any collaborative campaign ideas they may have.</i>	Chair, Chiara	- Looking at policy newly voted in in other student councils - New Policy - Voter Registration motion - Include Latino/ax as an ethnic option - Assigned to Linlu - Restructuring the annual student buses - Campus space usage - Subsidized dental costs - Accessible SU Car rental for Students Events - Officers assigned to each motion (more clarification on who's leading on what motion) - R: with campus spaces/ study spaces - Lack of quiet study spaces that also allow food and drink.

		- R: Lack of staff monitoring areas. Early closures happening due to lack of staff. E.G Queen's Building having early closes and closing on some weekends - R: Arts complex studying. Meant to be open until 10pm but told to leave at 8. Inconsistencies around communications around when study spaces will be open/ closed.
Academic Satisfaction <i>This is a chance to hear any updates from Education Officers and Representatives on changes to the academic experience – has something happened in your course, school and faculty that you want to ‘sense check’ with fellow Reps? This is your chance to do so</i>	Full-Time Education Officers	- Updates from the education officers and feedback from the faculty reps on education and current matters. - Sabrina to add any additional contexts - Faculty reps updates: - Checking out and Wi-Fi issues - LP: Gurvin and Lucy sit on senate and this has been brought up by members of staff - Chief of IT is doing a whole overhaul of Wi-Fi which will also be considerate of sustainability - Wi-Fi issues have been brought up - Research and insight team did some research on Wi-Fi access around campus. Details will follow on proposed action - Location not matching due to Wi-Fi issues - R: A lot of international students being marked absent. Reassurance needed from the university that it is not going to affect their visas if they have been attending. - Action: LP to push the university on more information about this and the communications. What are the university and more importantly when will changed be made? - R: Issues regarding fees and outlook mailbox. Little satisfactory responses from IT groups. Not enough clarification on what to do, and not enough satisfactory solutions - LP: noticed that there was less of a wellbeing concern for absences in regard to international students in comparison to home students. LP to ask the university on what they are doing about this, ensuring responses take a more well-being approach for all students not just home students

		- Bak: has had conversations about the check-in system and the negative impact it has on international students - University says that the app was meant to be more supportive of students, more in the hands of students. A 'democratic decision' given to students for students to check in themselves. - R: more clarification on checking- in on laptops as well, letting students know that they can also check- in on laptops not just smartphones. - R: Blue, midterm feedback - The way that it's collected is not the most ideal way - Questions asked are not in a way that students can feedback on the things they actually care about - Doesn't really feel like it's anonymized. Lecturers, dismissing the feedback given in lectures, insinuating it is not valid feedback - MS: would students prefer to do this feedback in their own time rather than feeling pressured to respond in classes? - Q: What questions would be more useful? - A: Quantitative, more feedback on what's going wrong. (SLLC?) School of cellular molecular chemistry, students concerned about merging of faculties. - Finding out more about the merging of the faculties. They have been told it's happening but nothing else. - R: Needs to be more clear communication on what this merge means for students. - Q: How is this going to work with the reps? Would the work load be too much for one person? - A: Something that the SU are aware of and looking closely at. - Relying more on school reps potentially? - At the moment the Academic Representation team at the SU rep have not been told to change anything yet, but they are aware of these concerns, and will be taking them into consideration within their work. - Q: Engineering has program reps. Having program reps has been useful as programs vary quite a lot. Is this something that could be implemented?
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		- A: Some schools have dozens of programs, and it would not be feasible to get them all in a meeting, May be better to focus attention on how to channel communications -
Break <i>An access break to be able to get some water and take a pause.</i>		
Campaign Funding Bids <i>This is a chance to bid for funding on collaborative, changemaking work. This is for Faculty Representatives and Network Chairs to access. Everyone in the meeting gets to vote for funding. You must submit bids prior.</i>	Chair	- Bid put forward by Dave (Mature Students, Parents and Carers network chair) - If lockers are available, making the process really clear for students rather than it being something that is only talked about on the ground - Small amount of money for incentives - R: Lots of lockers in the life science building that are maybe not in use - Mia: has been in conversation with the person who directs student inclusion. Looking to get lockers for commuter students - A conversation they had with estates a few years ago but have since closed. However, due to demand of lockers, conversations have begun to open up again. Agrees that some student survey work would be useful. - Emphasis on no expenses this year. Instead, students should tell the SU what they want, and we will buy. - Q: Will students have to pay VAT? - A: Provisional no to the SU's knowledge - Q: Do we know who would conduct this survey? - A: not considered who will do this yet. Maybe a student who needs to conduct research as part of their course. If no one is found, we don't have to spend the money - Money not spent will go back into the pot if the university decides they will fund the project/research instead. - Q: will participants get incentives?

		- A: The bid left purposely vague to explore this. Incentive can either go to the person conducting the survey or the participants. More discussion is needed on the decisions around this.
Any Other Business <i>For things that you wanted to discuss but aren't relevant to the items</i>	Chair	- Reminder: Student council coming up in November. If there are any ideas for motions, the deadline is Monday the 21. - - Chiara will send a link on motions - Q: Who does Student Council include? - A: A meeting like this but much bigger. (course reps, presidents of committees, faculty reps, FTO's. Anyone can propose a motion and Student council vote on the motion. - DSC don't vote on Student Council - Calendar invites are not usually sent for student council. - Other Business: Trans Students' Network will be coordinating Found family festive feast. Will be doing it again this year and would like networks to participate. - Action: Bak to discuss with trans students' network on whether there's capacity to support this financially with budget. - The next SRA is on the 26th November 2024. -

Agenda item	Action	Who
Q&A for the Full-Time Officer Team	Gather information during the abattoir visit to report back	FTO's visiting the Abattoir
Q&A for the Full-Time Officer Team	Reach out to the IT services to see if a room booking system	KP

	can be made for students, similar to the ones accessible to staff.	
Q&A for the Full-Time Officer Team	Inquire whether research can be conducted to see how international students are engaging with University/ SU support systems.	BJ
Academic Satisfaction	Push the university on solving the issues regarding check- in. (logistics, inquiry support, wellbeing approach etc)	LP
Any Other Business	See if there is any FTO support that can be given to the Trans Students Network's found family feast event.	BJ