**Student Council Minutes**

**For the meeting on 26/11/2020**

**Present**

**Ifrah Farooq**- Chair of Student Council

**David Ion**

**Leah Martindale**

**Julio Mkok**

**Roy Kiruri**

**Rushab Shah**

**Jason Palmer**

**Ruth Day**

There were 298 voting members (16:10) in attendance. The meeting was quorate.

1. **Welcome/What is student council?**

The chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Explained that no participants can turn on cameras or microphones unless they are given the floor. They can only raise their hand.

The chair explained how council works and the amendment process.

The chair ran through the code of conduct**.**

Finally, the chair invited everyone to have good discussions and to get involved.

1. **Ratification of previous policy**
2. **Motions**

**Motion 1: A better consent culture at Bristol SU**

Speech for: Anna Vause (motion proposer)/Shamar Gunning

The proposers said that the university has a sexual violence problem. Students have been coming to them to complain about this and they are not sure how to help. This motion aims to train student reps on how to signpost students properly about this problem.

Speech against: No speech against

Questions/discussion

Ed Hassell Q: Quite shocked about the issue. Does Bristol SU hold a sexual consent agenda (?).

No formal training about consent. They know that this is a big issue because they are being approached by students in their capacity as student reps. This motion aims to educate people about consent

Q: what does the training entail?

Asynchronous training online. For a designated member of the committee society. Followed by a quiz.

Narendra Mampitiya Q: Why just the president to be trained?

Answer: Could be any designated member of the committee. Whoever the committee feels is best placed to undertake the training. More than 1 could be trained if they wanted. 1 is just minimum.

Mobolaji Sotande-Peters Q: Why just student leaders? Why not everyone at Uni to get trained at this?

A: Jason has been working on this but the university has been slow in introducing this. This motion is the start and the proposers hope that the movement can develop from there.

Fione Feane Q: Would you propose to extend the training to course reps as well as other student leaders?

A: We would like to do that in the future.

Mohammed Farrash Q: How often will the training take place?

A: It will begin at the start of the year and you could have refresher training after Easter if needed. It should happen once.

Tia Durlston-Powell Q: Can we amend it so two people to be trained instead of 1?

A: Definitely?!

Victoria Cornelio Diaz Q: Would people that take this training be able to train others?

A: Would prefer it if they referred other interested members to the training rather than try to teach others.

Joanne Lin Q: What happens if someone is not in a society and need such support?

A: The point of the motion is for society committee to be able to signpost. Also, you don’t have to be an official member of the society to speak to someone from the committee if you need support.

**Motion 2: Officer Team Motion on Tuition Fees and On-Campus Teaching**

Last minute change to action 3 of motion · The SU to lobby the University and Government to provide a reduction in fees to students in recognition of the disruption caused this year. · In the event of a local or national lockdown, the SU should adopt a position that where possible, on-campus teaching should be replaced with a digital alternative. Teaching which cannot be delivered digitally, for example practicals or performances, should continue to be delivered as planned. · Whenever there is a significant change to local or national regulations the SU should consult with Networks, Course and Faculty Reps and the wider student body about how the changes impact students and the issues students wish to see the SU work on in response. This should include an online vote, open for 24 hours and widely distributed to students, asking for their opinion on what should happen to on campus teaching, the results of which will be released as soon as possible and will heavily inform the SU’s response

Speech for: Jason Palmer, ELA officer

Jason explained that the motion came to SC because they recognized the need to consult with more students on this serious issue.

If the motion passes, it will do two things; a) Default SU position would be that F2F in the event of a local or national lockdown, where possible, on-campus teaching should be replaced with a digital alternative.

b) Mandates that they need to consult with students and reps within 48 hours of any big changes or national/ local lockdown.

Speech(es) against:

Molly Pipe

Should not vote on in person teaching and other areas at the same time. Worries that the Sus position not representative of the student body. Has submitted an amendment. Low transmission rates on campus and f2f teaching important.

Chair identified that this is not a speech against. So opened up the floor to another speech against.

Ryan Barrett: Worry that the move to online teaching ignores how important the f2f teaching experience is for students. They feel isolated, have no opportunity to socialize.

Answer from David Ion: We are aware that F2F teaching is important for students. This motion is only referring to the event of national lockdown circumstances.

Dean Shiels: Not a black and white situation. Not a nuanced approach. Why not introduce a caveat that you may push for F2F teaching if appropriate and safe?

**Amendments**

Amendment 1(proposer Molly Pipe)

Speech for: Vote for the motion in parts. Should be able to vote separately because a few different issues are raised in this motion and people may have different opinion.

JP confirms that they accept this amendment as friendly and are happy for it to be voted in parts.

Amendment 2 (proposer Said Ahmed)

Speech for: Motion should include all students, regardless of whether they are international students or home.

Clarification from David Ion: the campaign would be for all students. The lobbying for international/PGT would happen locally, whereas the lobbying for UG would happen in collaboration with NUS and would be nationwide.

Speech in favour from Sian (proposer): Disagrees with the fact that this should be a nationwide campaign.

Speech against from RK: Appreciate that this year has been bad for all. Directly lobbying the university has a higher success rate.

Amendment 3 (Jason Palmer)

Questions on MOTION

Harry Manocha Q: Are you going to be lobbying the university to improve the quality of asynchronous teaching?

David Ion A: Aware of an issue with asynchronous in Arts and Humanities and working on that. In the case of the motion, f2f teaching would be replaced by synchronous. David is also working on supporting students who do not wish to attend

Ryan Grant-Khailani Q: Confused about the motion. Are the action clauses contingent on each other?

Jason Palmer: As per amendment 1, we will be voting in parts so no longer contingent

Jack McAlinden Q: Action 2- who decides what can’t be delivered digitally

Action 3- clarification about which occasions students will be consulted/contacted.

Jason- re action 3, will propose amendment to clarify that only Covid-19 regulation changes will be communicated.

Re action 2, it is university procedure.

Ed Hassell Q: How do you ensure that you represent the entire student body and understand the nuances in each course?

David Ion A: Massive challenge to represent all students. Working on more devolved system for TB2.

Felix Dubicki-Piper Q: Concerns around consistency of motion with other officer actions and priorities. If there is a lockdown and all teaching is online, this means that students will have to stay in halls. Having no F2F teaching during would have an adverse effect on mental health for students.

Also, spaces on campus are COVID-19 secure so why is it necessary to stop teaching if that is the case?

Jason Palmer A:

The spaces are secure, but the risk comes from activities around (before and after) teaching.

Going into lockdown does not mean that halls will be ‘shut down’. This is a decision that Public Health England makes and it is separate.

**Motion 3: Make Content Notes Compulsory on Sensitive Learning Materials across the** **University**

Speech for:

Speech against:

Questions/discussion

**Motion 4: Byelaw and Articles of Association Changes Stage 2**

Speech for:

Speech against:

Questions/discussion

1. Officer updates

**Julio Mkok- Union Affairs**

-For detailed updates check the website

- secured funding from the Alumni Grant association for Welcome Boxes and to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 19 on societies’ funds.

- Participated in press releases on life on campus within a pandemic.

**-** Worked to clarify the University’s policy on face masks and visors

-Lobbied university on Increased covid-19 testing and free testing upon return.

**-**Worked on Black History Month

-Distributed over £1500 to different students via the Hardship Group Grant, which helps students to participate in sports clubs and societies that are financially burdening

- Reviewed changes within our bye-laws with regards to our democracy, governance structure and the “fit to run for FTO roles”

**-** Supported the first online Welcome 2020 programme with over 14,000 student engagements with the Welcome Fair

**-**Collaborated with DARO in hosting the VC’s Roundtable and Alumni Forum events

David Ion- UG Education Officer

Leah Martindale- PG Education Officer

**Roy Kiruri- International Students’ Officer**

-Lobbied the University to ensure free airport transfers due to Covid will continue in future years.

-Worked with the Careers Service to explore ways we can fund more graduate opportunities for international students. International Support scheme for PGTs and PGRs

-Took part in an online Q&A session with Thangam Debbonaire (MP for Bristol West), Alicia O’Grady (Director of External Relations at the University) and Christina Gray (Director of Public Health for Bristol City Council) - answering questions that students and members of the community had about the COVID crisis.

- Met with the Robert Kerse (University COO) to push for tuition fee transparency in terms of costs breakdowns for the least and most expensive courses for international students

Jason Palmer-Equality, Liberation and Access Officer

Ruth Day- Student Living Officer

**Rushab Shah- Sports and Student Development Officer**

-Ted’s friends foundation launch

-Movember campaign launch

-LGBTQ+ and women only swimming sessions

- Have been working on getting intramural 11 a side football on the dingle 4g

- Held a forum for sports club captains to collect feedback on how the SU can support society leaders in the current climate, and on how the SU can ensure committee motivation and wellbeing.

-Will work on: transport to coombe dingle and making sport more accessible