

COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10th MAY 2010
AT 6.40pm ON THE 3rd FLOOR, UNIVERSITY HOUSE

Present: (non voting membership)	
President	Jamie Scudamore
VP Community	Ben Wilcox
VP Education	Chris Marks
VP Sport	James Kerr
VP Welfare	Alice Marshall
General Manager	Paul Tatton
(Voting membership)	
Chair Campaigns & Democracy	Baz Mohammed
Nick Amato	Tom Wan
Anne Joy	Aidan Mersh
Phil Pocknee	Mary Cooksey
Tom Peel	Mathew Wade
Aled Hack	Catherine Clothier
Andrew Barrett	

7359. **Apologies** Line Kristensen and Will Langdale
7360. **Resignations** None
7361. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** Agreed as a true record.
7362. **Matters Arising** None.

Reports (As displayed on www.hullstudent.com (follow link: Your Union, Council Information, UEC Reports))

- a. Governance Zone
- (i) The president reported on behalf of his UEC colleagues as below:-

This semester has seen more success at HUU, with record election turnout, a new constitution and consistently high levels of participation, officers, staff & volunteers deserve a great deal of recognition for their hard work. In addition to these achievements we now have confirmation of relocation of the Union in Scarborough as well as the redevelopment of the 2nd floor in Hull, which will be completed by the end of the year.

We have also had national recognition for our work. The Times Higher ranked us 6th in their Student Union rankings. We have also received a silver sound impact award from NUS for ethical & environmental practices; we more than doubled our points score from last year, receiving the Co-operative most improved union award for our efforts. The only disappointment was that we narrowly missed out on gold, with only the top 5 unions nationally receiving the gold award, we came 6th. Although this was unfortunate, it means that a gold award is a realistic target for next year's team.

Community

- Participation in societies remains high, with 8 societies choosing to join the AU on their annual trip to Spain over Easter for the first time.
- This year's Volunteer Awards evening will be taking place on May 6th and will recognise the hard work done by volunteers from across all zones
- Recent months have seen a review of the community zone's activity, with a focus on volunteering. This has also meant that staffing levels will increase as of this summer, with the return of the Student Activities Co-ordinator

Education

- The first ever HUU Student conference was held in February, which saw course reps from across all faculties come together to discuss issues facing them and their fellow students. It was also the first event of its kind to be attended by the VC & other members of SMT.

- To date we have recruited over 400 course reps and trained over 50%
- There are now more student chairs of staff-student committees than ever before and this has already

Sport

- We had our best ever showing at the BUCS national cup finals this year, with 4 teams reaching their respective finals. We also had 6 teams promoted this year. A special mention should go to Netball Squad who have won the AU team of the year award for gaining promotion and their 48-32 win in the cup final against Chester
- This year's trophy presentation evening sold out within 24 hours, with over 230 students in attendance
- The AU took 541 students on the annual trip to Spain, which was the biggest touring party ever to be taken by HUU or any other union. All students were also returned safely

Welfare

- Sexual Health Advice & Guidance (SHAG) week saw more activity than ever before, with various daily events. During the week, over 3000 free condoms were distributed and over 400 Chlamydia tests were completed
- In April, the first HUU 'free your money' day was held in Asylum. The aim was to give students advice on a range of financial issues such as budgeting and dealing with debt. Over 500 students attended the event.
- The Comfort Zone is now established for students to come and get advice/chat/relax in during all examination periods and as an alternative to our usual welcome week programme

Governance

- A confirmed total of 4104 members voted in the 2010 elections which is a turnout of 24.55%, up by over 1000 from last year
- A new constitution was passed in March with 1770 votes in favour (105 against)
- Although the year began with regular, well attended zone meetings, other commitments i.e. work etc. have meant that many volunteers have been unable to attend regular meetings this semester, we have also got various volunteer positions to fill for next year.

In the remaining time at HUU, we will be completing our objectives as set out in the operation plans, whilst looking to the future, working with the new team to ensure that our plans and strategies are the right ones going forward into the new academic year and beyond.

b. Community Zone

- (i) Vice-President Community read out Chair Media's end of year report which is as follows:-

Apologies for not being here in person to give this report, but my workload is particularly heavy at the moment.

Hullfire has now completed all its editions for the year, with the final, May edition coming out tomorrow (Tuesday May 11th). Although the edition was ready to go to print on Monday 26th April, to come out on Monday 3rd May, the edition was pushed back a week as myself and Ben battled legal difficulties on one particular article. Although May went to print without the article as it was taking too long, and jeopardising the relevance of the rest of the magazine, arrangements have been made to print A4 double-sided inserts with the story on if and when it is publishable.

Handover to new editors and Chair Media is going well, with software training half complete. All of Hullfire's articles for the past year are now online, and we plan to have the past two years uploaded by the end of the year. Hullfire is also planning an online bonus edition that should be announced imminently, to give those who did not get a chance to write, or whose writing was too lengthy, a chance to air their views, and we plan to have this completed and uploaded a few days after the End of Year Ball.

Jam Radio has carried on its high quality of broadcast, with a few notable points that have stood out. Their HUU election coverage back in March was ruthlessly comprehensive and great fun to be a part of,

attracting anything from five to ten times more listeners than regular Jam. Indeed, this was a victory for all HUU's Media, with combined Tweeting from Hullfire and Jam attracting interest from students up and down the country. The election coverage also introduced a variety of new equipment that will benefit Jam in years to come, including wireless mics and headphones for roving reporters.

Jam has also been modifying the equipment in the Concourse Lounge to increase efficiency and quality, they've had an outside broadcast from the station manager's house, and with their new exec, have hashed out a plan, week by week, for next year. This is an incredibly important step, as this foresight is one of the key steps to creating a more professional station.

Bassment! is now airing once a week temporarily from Darius' office for two hours on a Wednesday, to keep awareness of the station up while sorting out the new studio. Their listening figures are currently roughly in line with Jam's. Their current plan is to prove to the Music Tech department that they can broadcast from the new site without negatively impacting their network speeds, and once that's done, they'll be reading to roll in Fresher's week.

The Media Awards are on track for next Saturday, which will mostly finish HUU Media's year.

Lastly, next year Hullfire should be becoming a 44-page colour tabloid size newspaper. Consider the Election Special's cover as a rough (very rough – next year's Chair Media seems to think a Red Top would be trashy) blueprint. This will reduce costs, despite becoming colour, and hopefully increase ad revenue so that we're less of a financial burden on the union. We're also in talks with Scarborough to bring Tide in as a central 4-page pull-out supplement, where Tide would effectively become another section, although we cannot confirm this at this point. I believe it would be best for both organisations, as it would reduce the overall cost of Tide, and increase the likelihood that it actually gets printed once a month. It would also reduce the burden of work for students at Scarborough, and increase cross-campus activity.

It's been an honour to work with all the students who put their heart and soul into HUU's media, whether it's words, photographs, radio, engineering, promoting, or online. It's a labour of love. And all the best to council, with whatever you're doing next year.

- c. Scarborough Campus
 - (i) President summarised the following report on HUU's Representational Structure in Scarborough, which is currently still open for consultation.

Background

Since 2000 when the University of Hull merged with University College Scarborough, we have had a number of initiatives, strategic and operational, working towards a consistent student experience.

The last three years has seen HUU take the strategic decision to further unite the democratic structure of the Union. The aim of this was to create and develop the ethos of "two campuses, one union". However despite some success we have not overcome the practical problems – distance between the two campuses and the differing Union infrastructure and facilities. The two campuses are at very different stages of development which has a direct impact on the student experience at both campuses. Students in Scarborough continue to compare unfavourably what we offer them compared to the Hull Campus in the surveys we undertake. Therefore HUU is now looking at addressing how its representational structure can be changed to improve the experiences of the membership and how it manages the members' expectations.

Proposal

A change in its democratic structure is needed to help develop and deliver better representation of the student body at both campuses. Moreover, HUU has realised that managing the expectations of the membership is key to HUU achieving its vision of "being one of the leading SU's in the UK". To help HUU achieve this, we believe that there needs to be a separation of the democratic structure of the Union. This does not mean that there would be two separate Unions as the proposed structure would be designed around one Board of Trustees and a staff structure that uses a combination of locally and cross campus managed areas. We are looking at giving Scarborough more autonomy to manage the student experience in Scarborough.

1. Current Situation

The current structure is designed to work cross campus, with the full-time Sabbatical Officers spending one working day in ten, (the President is expected to spend two days at the Scarborough Campus.) The Chair of Scarborough and their Executive Committee are there to help the Sabbatical Officers carry out the work the membership requires of them.

- 1.1 It has proved very difficult for Sabbatical Officers based at the Hull Campus to be responsible for representing students at the Scarborough Campus, and in practice it has been the Scarborough Officers that have been carrying out the majority of the work. It is also difficult for Sabbatical Officers to fully understand the needs of the student at the Scarborough Campus due to the limited time they have at the Campus.
- 1.2 Cross campus representation has also been very problematic. Zone and Council meetings have proved difficult to arrange and attend for representatives from both campuses. Technology has been used (ie video conference) but has been problematic due to the numbers involved, especially at the Council meetings. The use of transport has had its issues as well, as it is reliant on there always being enough volunteer drivers available to take Hull and Scarborough students to each campus for the cross campus meetings.
- 1.3 The current structure also relies on a communication structure that is cross campus. This has sometimes caused delays in the action needed, confusion for the membership, the University and other key stakeholders as they are not always sure of whom they need to contact.

There have also been issues with communicating through key marketing materials throughout the year, especially those distributed at the start of the year.

2. Proposed Structure

The current structure would be replaced with one that would allow for a much more autonomous approach for each campus. This in theory will allow each campus particularly at Scarborough to be much more focused and agile in its approach to delivering the service that the membership, the University and other key stakeholders require. There would be a shift from cross campus representation to local representation for both campuses.

- 2.1 Board of Trustees
This would remain as one Board and would be responsible for both campuses. All Sabbatical Officers will be trustees of HUU and both Hull and Scarborough Campus students will be invited to stand for election for the board as student trustees.
- 2.2 Constitution
HUU would have one Constitution that governs both campuses. The proposed Constitution leaves the representational structures to be defined in the Bye Laws except for defining that there shall be a Union Council. If we have the representational bodies, the proposed Constitution would need a small amendment.
- 2.3 President
The President would still be expected to work closely with VP Scarborough as they would represent both campuses at formal University forums.
- 2.4 Campus Executive Committees
Each campus would have an Executive Committee that would look after the day to day representation of their respective campus. The Vice-President Scarborough would sit on the Scarborough Union Executive Committee as the Chair along with the Scarborough volunteer officers/representatives. The President would continue to be Chair of the Union Executive Committee at the Hull Campus, but the VP Scarborough would not be part of this Committee.

2.5 Union Council
There would be one Union Council that would meet at the times stipulated in the Bye-Laws and the Standing Orders of HUU. Union Council would continue to be the forum where scrutiny takes place and policies are past.

2.6 Elections
The elections for all of the Sabbatical Officers would continue to be cross campus, (This is because they are all Trustees of HUU which is a cross campus board). Other positions such as NUS Delegates and Senate Reps will also remain elected cross campus. All other positions will be elected by HUU members in local elections at each campus.

3. Managing Expectations

3.1 Budgets
The budget for Scarborough would change to reflect that Zones are not cross campus. This means that Scarborough may need additional resources in the future to help with the development of the zone areas within the Scarborough context. There are areas of exception, such as the budgets for elections and BUCS administration which remain cross campus.

3.2 Marketing
The marketing needs for each campus would be directed by the Officers and staff of each campus. Staff who work cross campus would be responsible for materials at both campuses working with the relevant staff member in Scarborough.

Different operational plans would be needed to focus on individual campus requirements. This would include a separate website and start of year materials. This would obviously need resourcing in terms of the facilities and staff needed to carry out the work.

4. Staff

The current cross campus approach to the staff structure should continue. However it has been identified that some areas will need to be addressed to deliver essential services locally. It should be noted that where services are predominantly run from the Scarborough Campus, ie commercial services, help and input, such as sharing best practice should still be encouraged.

4.1 Cross Campus Services

The key services that will need support from Hull Campus staff are:-

4.1.1. Advice Centre
The current service is based on a drop-in session one day a week with email, telephone and web cam services in support five days a week

4.1.2 Job Exchange
The current service is based on a "need to be on campus when necessary", with email, telephone and website support five days a week. This will now become part of the new Student Activities Co-ordinator's role.

4.1.3 Human Resources
This would continue as it is currently with the HR Manager visiting Scarborough every six weeks or when needed.

4.1.4 General Manager
This would remain the same with the General Manager visiting Scarborough once a month or when needed.

4.1.5 Finance Office
This would continue to be provided by the Finance Manager and office staff from the Hull Campus.

4.2 Locally Managed Services

The key services that will be directly run by Scarborough Campus staff are:

4.2.1 Marketing

This would need to be reviewed to accommodate the potential changes to the way the two campuses are marketed. The reintroduction of the part-time student position of Scarborough Marketing Assistant could be a short-term solution. Support from the Marketing Department would be needed throughout the year.

4.2.2 Events

Currently this is managed directly by the Union Manager with a verbal agreement with an external promoter. Ongoing attempts to develop a partnership with the University's Commercial Services remain slow and problematic.

4.2.3 Commercial Services

The Union Manager and the Union Admin Assistant currently share the managing and running of the Union Shop and gym membership services. As these areas continue to grow, so will the need to staff them effectively.

4.2.4 Student Activities

This area will now be under the direction of the new Student Activities Co-ordinator's role.

4.2.5 Community Volunteering

The Union Volunteer Advisor reintroduction to working two days a week in Scarborough and one day in Hull will help facilitate the need of student activities as well their work on volunteering.

7363. Any Other Business

- (i) The meeting was reminded about the Elections which were taking place from Tuesday 11th May to Thursday 13th May 2010.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm

THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN AN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT ON REQUEST