

Union Council on the 7th of February 2011 at 6.15pm in Meeting Room 4 on the second floor of University House

The Deputy Chair, Ashley Armitage announced that he would be Chairing the meeting, after apologies were sent from Tom Townend that he could not attend.

In attendance:

President, Aidan Mersh
VP Community, Tom Peel
VP Education, Matthew Barrow
VP Sport, Ash Lord
VP Welfare, Suzie Morris
VP Scarborough, Matthew Brown

Sophie Reid, Democracy Co-ordinator

Ekram Aidaros, Chair Media
Viola Bennert, Chair ISA
Jonathan Chambers, Chair Governance Zone & Chair Campaigns & Democracy
Michaela Powell, Chair Societies
Sean Brawley, Chair Community Zone & Councillor of Scrutiny
Gary Barratt, Councillor of Scrutiny
Jess Bamforth, Chair Mature Students
Kathryn Kay, Academic Council
Matthew Smith, Councillor of Scrutiny
Victoria Winterton, Chair Education Zone & Councillor of Scrutiny
Peter Moffitt, Chair Environmental & Ethical
Ashley Armitage, Deputy Chair Council & AU Secretary
Sophie Darragh, BUCS Rep
Robyn Challands, AU Communications & Events
Susannah Whitaker, Councillor of Scrutiny
Kora-Lee Holmes, Chair Sports Zone & Councillor of Scrutiny
Henry Mitchell, Council Rep
Laura-Marie Stanton, Council Rep
Aaron Speer, FASS Senate Rep
Catherine Clothier, LINKS
Daniel Miele, Chair Welfare Zone & Nightline
Tanya Hegarty, Chair Disabled Students
Phil Pocknee, Chair Black Students
Stacey Dodd, Chair Women's Committee
Callum Tomeny, Councillor of Scrutiny

1. Apologies:

Pippa Eveleigh, Tom Townend, Madonna Masuka, Sarah Kaltenhaesuser, Basak Onal, Emma Graham

2. Resignations: Michael Rourke. The Chair thanked Mike for his contribution to Union Council and wished him the best.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting: Agreed as a true record.
4. Matters arising: None
5. Ratification of Union Societies: The Real Ale Society and The Bruneian Society. The Chair read their Objectives & Aims as seen on their submitted Constitution. Both Societies were ratified.
6. Associate members: None
7. Temporary members: None

Procedural Motions

1. Motions affecting the Constitution, Bye-laws or Standing Orders:

A Motion was accepted to be brought to the meeting by the Chair prior to the meeting. The Motion was as follows:

TITLE: Motion of support for student occupation at Staff House.

HUU NOTES:

1. Last year's Occupation and this council's vote against it.
2. The admission by some councillors that their vote against the occupation was a mistake.
3. The support given to the Occupation by the Hull University Branch of the University and College Union amongst other Trade Unions, community and political activist groups in Hull, around the country and throughout the world.
4. Hull Students Against fees and Cuts' to re-occupy

HUU BELIEVES:

1. Occupations are a valid tactic in opposing the government's cuts onslaught against students and workers.
2. the Occupation last year did force the VC to issue a response to staff and students.
3. Causing upset to the University's commercial venues is a bargaining chip the Union doesn't possess.

HUU RESOLVES:

1. Issue a message on the front page of Hullstudent.com supporting future occupations.
2. Make available £ 300 for use by the occupation

3. Condemn Aaron Porter for constructing and perpetuating lies about anti-Semitic chants on the TUC demonstration on the 29th of January in Manchester.
4. Write a letter and urge the VC to do the same, to the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police for their actions on the demonstration on the 9th December, 2010.

Speech for given.

Question asked about where the £300 would come from. The Chair let the President explain that funds would be from the different Zones budgets. Question asked if the Motion should be made simple by taking out point 3, as it felt like it was a bit of a personal attack on Aaron Porter. Another Question was asked about what the £300 would be used for, after the Speech for, clearly indicated that it would be for marketing. This was a concern because the last motion that they brought to council, indicated that the money would be spent on such things as food. The proposer felt that this was a valid point and all Councillors agreed that point 2 should be changed to specify this.

1st Amendment proposed that point 3 should be removed.

2nd Amendment proposed that 4 should be removed.

Summary was given of the two Amendments and they were voted on separately.
First Amendment passed by a majority vote (20)
Second Amendment falls.

Revised motion was read out and no speech against or speech in abstention given.

REVISED HUU RESOLVES:

1. Issue a message on the front page of Hullstudent.com supporting the current occupation.
2. Make available £ 300 for marketing use only for the occupation
4. Write a letter and urge the VC to do the same, to the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police for their actions on the demonstration on the 9th December, 2010.

Motion passes by majority vote (18).

This Motion will therefore be passed to UEC and go to referendum.

REPORTS

1. Governance Zone
 - (a) Report by Chair of Governance Zone

The biggest thing happening at the moment is the Elections. We really wanted to make sure that part-time positions were given a lot more focus in the publicity this year. We had feedback from previous years that there was only really focus given to the Sabbatical positions. We have also tried to make the material a lot more relevant, hence why we have used the Apprentice as a theme with the words 'you're elected'. Although the 'S Factor' was good, there was concerns that people didn't actually know what it was. We have been working with Sophie, the democracy co-ordinator on this and would like to thank her for making the handbooks a lot clearer. There will also be a change with Hustings this year, with students being able to send question to Sophie that she will monitor and if they are appropriate then they can be asked to all candidates at Hustings. It has also been discussed about UEC members taking the Election period off as holidays if they want to re-run.

If you are thinking about running for a Sabbatical position or part-time paid position then you must attend a compulsory procedural meeting at 1.15pm in Asylum and there is also one held at the same time in Scarborough.

Also happening this week, is 'Go Green' week, which you can find lots of info about downstairs in the foyer and around the Union.

In Governance Zone meeting, Aidan also explained the Students Union Evaluation Initiative' (SUEI), highlighting that 88-89% of respondents in the Student Satisfaction survey felt that HUU had made a positive impact to their time at University. This is really good for HUU, which is a good as the response from Leeds and Sheffield who already have a gold award in SUEI.

After we have done some research with red Brick, we are also looking into ways in which we can help members identify with being a member of HUU. One idea that we are pushing is having the University library cards is that one side of them is red with the HUU logo.

Could you also be thinking of any motions that you would like us to bring to the NUS Conference and pass them unto Aidan or Sophie.

Aidan also involved in a working group, which was developed to push the idea of keeping Wednesday morning free from teaching. The proposal is that Free Elective modules will be pushed to Wednesday Mornings, rather than Thursday afternoons and then Core teaching on a Wednesday morning will be moved to Thursday afternoons. This should hopefully come into place from September 2011.

Question was asked whether the Union was spending as much on elections as was spent last year. The president didn't know the answer to this but said he would investigate and respond at a later time.

2. Community Zone
 - (a) Report by Chair Community Zone

KPI's are being met right across the Community Zone and running a

Hullfire is no longer in deficit. HUUTV is up and running. Societies have a number of upcoming cross-society events coming up and generally, all is going well.

Chair ISA was confused about the new format of Union Council, so the Chair Campaigns & Democracy explained it. Highlighted the aim of getting the Chairs of each zone to report is to improve communication within the different zones. This was the first Union Council where Chairs of the zones gave reports and so it was a bit of a test. From now on, the Chair ISA will talk with Chair Community zone and talk about what is happening in ISA.

Chair ISA then explained what has been happening in ISA:

With the new International student coming in, they have been able to get 200 new members. They had a party on Friday in Johnny Mac, which was a huge success as it sold out on the door. They had sold very few tickets before the night, therefore it was brilliant to see it sell out. They are now talking about doing this a lot more frequently. Have taken more than 100 students to Liverpool, which was a good trip. Culture night is on the 27th of March, which is our biggest event of the year.

Chair Societies asked that people send in pictures of any events they have taken part in, so that a collage can be made.

Chair Media announced that there between the 21st and the 24th of February there would be stalls set up in the foyer between 10am-4pm to raise money for St.Andrews hospice. They will be taking and selling DVD's, CD's and all sorts of things.

3. Education Zone

(a) Report by Chair Education Zone

The library campaign is proving to be very successful. We have been looking at other University libraries to get some ideas and we have confirmation from the University of a re-developed library. We had Academic Council on the 1st of February, which was a success with approximately 50 attendees. The video of the library was shown, talked about the Learning & Teaching conference, which was held by the University.

Have been working really hard on preparations for the HUU Academic Conference, happening in Hull on the 17th February and in Scarborough on the 18th February. We have confirmed that the University Vice-Chancellor will be there, as well as Hull North MP Diana Johnson, NUS VP Higher Education Usman Ali and QAA Development Officer Derfel Owen. The conference will last from 12pm until around 7pm and you can come in and out when you want. There will be presentations and the opportunity to ask questions of University Senior Management with engaging and interactive workshops. We encourage you to all come along and also tell your friends to come along as well. This is a big event and hopefully it will be really good.

Also have been working on re-writing the Code of Practice on the Representation System is quite out-of-date. Also working on re-writing the Code of Practice on complaints and have set up a working group on this.

On a final note, we encourage to run in the Elections to sit on the Education zone. Positions available are: VP Education, Chair Postgraduate students, Chair part-time students, Chair Mature students and Senate reps.

No questions.

4. Scarborough Campus
 - (a) Report by Chair of Scarborough Executive Committee

Annual Learning and Teaching Conference: The University held a learning and teaching Conference which was attended by the University Union and University staff. This went well, providing us with another opportunity to strengthen our relationship with the University and get the student views across.

ISA: The International Students Association has been struggling to function all year, with the then sitting President doing little due to personal reasons. This problem has now been addressed with a new President been put in place and an event has been organised where students can sample food from students home nations. The ISA in Scarborough is now moving forward. Thanks must go to the Student Activities Coordinator Kathryn Oram-Robinson and the University's International Officer Sinead Murtagh.

Catering: The catering issue within Scarborough that has been an issue for a number of years has had a number of major improvements in the quality of food. This has been done in partnership between the Union and the dedicated catering staff. More is still needed however; the effort they have made has been fantastic. Indeed to celebrate Chinese New year they did a novelty night with Chinese Food. This went down well with students.

Coming up –

Ideas Cafe: The Student Union in partnership with the University are running an ideas cafe on the 10th February to allow students to express their ideas in terms of the new Library, Calvino's Bar and the Cafeteria.

Mayor Visit: The Mayor of Scarborough is visiting the Union on the 8th February to see the new facility and meet the staff. This has been arranged by us but we are working with the University to ensure the Mayor sees all of the improvements made. This was arranged as the Mayor could not come to the official opening.

Academic Conference: HUU Academic Conference will take place in Scarborough on the 18th February. We have a number of people attending including Cllr. Tom Fox Ward Councillor of the University and Leader of Scarborough Borough Council, Dr. Craig Gaskell Principle of Scarborough Campus, and the VC.

Elections: Traditionally Scarborough does not have a high interest rate in elections, especially NUS Conference Delegates. This year following a governance restructure and a push in election participation driven by the VP Scarborough we are pleased to report that in Scarborough we have two people standing for student trustees, 5 people standing for NUS Conference, and a number of people standing for the Scarborough Executive Committee with some positions having competition for the first time ever.

Community Strategy: To improve HUU's relationship with the wider community in Scarborough as well as make a greater impact on the student community the VP is in the process of writing the Scarborough Community Strategy. This when drafted will go to wider consultation to ensure that our partners are happy with it.

Austin Mitchell MP Visit: Following the success of his visit two years ago Austin has agreed to come to Scarborough on Thursday 31st March 2011 at 18:30 until approximately 20:00 to do a talk on "the Ethics of Government cuts and the long term impact on the economy". This is done in partnership with John Munro of the Business School who teaches an ethics class. We open this event up to the local community.

No Questions

5. Sport Zone
 - (a) Report by Chair Sport Zone

Currently have 2086 members, with boxing being the largest team.

AU Council. Happened on the 2th February

Varsity. Plans are being made to bring Varsity back to the students of Hull University. Hosted by York University, the date's been confirmed as 26th & 27th February.

Further information has been released regarding timetabling, it's been reiterated that clubs need to confirm/cancel imminently.

Accommodation has been offered by York, which has been extended to spectators as well as participants.

Tour t-shirts. With tour taking place 16-22 April, organisation of Tour t-shirts has begun with clubs being asked to take the extra £10 themselves to ease traffic into the AU office.

Kit. It seems kit has been a bit of an issue this year as after clubs were updated at AU Council, discussion was opened up to the floor and general feelings of frustration and the length of time taken for kit to arrive being the general consensus.

However clubs do seem to support the continued efforts of 'branding' the AU by wearing the same kit.

Player & team of the month. Mark Duxbury of Men's Rugby Union and Men's Lacrosse respectively.

These are on hiatus for Dec. And Jan. Til fixtures start again.

AU AGM . Happening on Tuesday 15th March

Expansion of Executive Committee. From 4 to 8. As of these elections the positions will be;

Secretary, Treasurer, *Communications Officer, Events Officer, BUCS Rep., Kit Rep., Tour Rep. and Varsity Rep.*

Safety equipment. Ordered for various clubs - predominately matting for Sports & Fitness Centre which has been an issue needing to be addressed for the last couple of years. So it's good that that's been sorted out.

Pedestrian crossing. Another safety issue is the matter of a pedestrian crossing being inserted on Inglemire Lane where the Sports & Fitness Centre crosses over to sports pitches. This can be a dangerous crossing area which affects both our students and local community clubs using the facilities nightly. VP Sport spoken to local Casualty Reduction Officers about possibility of a pedestrian crossing. This is an ongoing process but an important one which could potentially save lives.

AU naked calendar. Sales are ongoing and they can still be purchased at any time from the AU office, £5 each.

New teams. 3 new clubs have come forward over the last semester and VP Sport has been working hard redeveloping ;

Table tennis – which has progressed the most so far and is pretty much ready to pass through council.

Sky diving & sailing which are still in the early stages.

Aiming to have 50 clubs registered with AU by the end of the year – currently

BUCS update. Two teams still left unbeaten in leagues; Men's Badminton 1st Team and Ladies Hockey 1st Team, well done to all of those guys.

Forthcoming events:

Dodge ball – February 2011. Dodge ball competition looking to take place in Asylum in February.

Varsity - 26-27th April 2011. Previously mentioned.

Comic Relief Fundraising – 18th April 2010. Sports Zone currently working hard in planning a sports event to raise money for Comic Relief – Red Nose Day this year is 18th March when the AU Allstars will be going up against Netball Squad 1st Team in a netball match and I know they're taking it pretty seriously!

Super Teams – 2-6th April 2011. A knock out day of mini-sports events which was intended to take place at the end of Week 2, but has now been reorganised to take place on either 2nd or 6th April.

Trophy Presentation – End of April 2011. Au Trophy Presentation will be at the end of April. There's a couple of changes being planned for a bigger occasion than the traditional Staff House meal, currently sniffing out potential venues.

Humber Bridge - 25th February 2011. In coordination with BBC Humberside and the Community Zone – relay race across the Humber Bridge with 10 members of the AU doing 4 miles each back and forth across the bridge to celebrate 40 years of BBC Humberside.

Saturday activity at the Lawns. Looking to put on weekly sport activity at The Lawns; still in the early stages but pretty self explanatory

6. Welfare Zone
- (a) Report by Chair Welfare Zone

Governance Zone

AM feeds back on Governance zone meeting 2.2.2011.

Discuss Elections and the importance of attending the procedural meeting & making sure your position is filled if you intend to step down.

Chair of Black Students (PP)

PP is working on two projects; 1. An anti golliwog video which originates from a black students seminar held in semester 1 and 2. A woman focused event yet TBC.

Director of Nightline

Training a new cohort in Week 2

Social Wed 9.2.2011

Commented that he encountered a problem booking for the Refreshers Fair, comments were made that this seems to have been a problem outside the community zone.

Disabled Students Chair

Wheelchair access campaign is on Tuesday 8.2.2011 and starts at 11.30, meet outside the Union building.

Plan is for sabbatical officers and others to use wheelchairs on a walk round campus to highlight access issues for wheelchair users.

Thanks to LINKs for providing the wheelchair.

AM asked if any university staff had been invited on the walk-round to make them aware of the issues first hand? TH will speak to Suzie to see if anyone is available. There will be a social before the end of Feb.

It was noted by zone that the sports article on the website had been good and that it should be redeployed on the front page again.

VP Welfare

Ran a successful housing week where over 200 students took part giving us their views on housing and housing issues present in Hull, we were able to compile a league table of landlords which has been handed over to the Scheme. Between Christmas and the housing fair, mystery shopping was also carried out, and 7

Landlords were held to account due to their blatant rule breaking of the lettings policy. All of these landlords were brought into meetings to discuss their actions, many still said they were not breaking the rules even though we had evidence to prove otherwise. However we are in negotiations in the scheme exec to try and make a policy that works and makes landlords abide by the rules. In such a case that rule breaking would be taken action upon. As a huge win, it will be implemented that the allocation of first year students to scheme housing will now be a reward for those that abide by the policy.

Spent time with the New Nurse cohort explaining the services we have available, and how they can get involved.

In plans for Free Your Money Day 2, which will be taking place on March 8th, in conjunction with National Student Money Week.

This week we are running the Wheelchair Campaign with Disabilities Committee, and the sabbs and other volunteers will be taking part in this campaign to discover the accessibility problems around the union. Today Adam Sheridan from the SAC has been in the wheelchair all day, and will be writing a report surrounding his experience and problems encountered. If anyone else would like to take part for an hour or longer please let us know.

Attended Court, Senate away day, Senate, 2 x Scheme Exec, Special Division of the police and the Trustee Board.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

President announced that the AGM (Annual General Meeting) was being held straight after the meeting for those who wanted to stay for it.

Meeting closed 7.15pm