



UL **STUDENTS' UNION**
www.lincolnsu.com

University of Lincoln Students' Union
Minutes of a meeting of the Student Council

held on Monday 23rd April 2012 at 5.00pm
in MB1019, Main Admin Building

Present:

Chair

Chris Whitwood (Student Trustee)

Council Members

Jennine Fox (VP Academic Affairs)
Gemma Cobby (Student Officer)
Kirsty Barnes (SLR Performance)
Fen Kipley (MAPs Organiser)
Loryn Good (SLR Humanities)
Andreas Zacharia (VP Activities)
Amy Ward (SLR Natural & Applied Sciences)
John Fernandez (Sports Officer)
Michael Hansmann (SLR Business)
Jarek Grebenik (SLR Engineering)
Kim Woodward (SLR Arts)
Lindsay Westgarth (SLR Law)

Students' Union Members

Jonathan Cresswell
Jasmine Sampson
Kate Withers
Jonathan Holmes
Victoria Caswell
Rebecca Jones
Marcell Grant
Thomas Briggs
Daniel Nii-Ashong
Andrew Twagira
Francesca Anderson
Gooleswari Seeburn
Huseyin Kishi

Also in attendance

Rebecca Pocock (Democracy Worker)
Ian Johnston (Activities & Development Manager)

1. **Workshop Style Discussion “Student Expectations”**

Facilitated by Jennine Fox VP Academic Affairs.

Noted:

- Students were asked for their feedback on their Student Experience and their view of the Community's expectations.
- Organisation of courses, communication with tutors, facilities and quality of placements were highlighted as areas of concern in the student experience.
- Students commented on a wide range of subjects under the community expectations heading including; better relationships with local schools, more information about the benefit of volunteering, making clubs and societies available to the wider community and expectations on students from the community eg. Good behaviour.

The meeting was not quorate.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Rebecca Rock, Natalie Liddle, Christine Ball, Maryam Saghir, Wesley Wells, Hugh Lound, Kayleigh Taylor and Scott Davidson.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Council reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th March 2012. Approval of the minutes will be by circulation.

4. **Matters Arising**

Seats on the Equality & Diversity Committee:

Noted:

- The committee meets four times per year and currently admits 1 undergraduate and 1 postgraduate student.
- The terms of reference would need to be changed to admit more students. The committee would be open to this possibility, however would need to follow the correct process to do this.
- If further seats are allocated, Student Council would ratify nominees for the places.

Feedback from previous workshop sessions:

Noted:

- Students would like feedback from facilitators of workshop sessions. Information from students has been taken by various speakers but there has been no communication with Council of any outcomes from this work.

Action:

- Jennine Fox (VP Academic Affairs) and Rebecca Pocock (Democracy Worker) are to collate feedback and e-mail to council members.

Staff recruitment in the Students' Union

Noted:

- Costs for the headhunting firm Peridot used for the recruitment of the Chief Executive position are £9050 to date.

Policy note:

This policy was agreed by e-mail circulation after the meeting.

Any Other Business:

Noted:

- Jennine Fox is in receipt of an e-mail from the Catering manager Chris Whaley regarding the discrepancies in pricing across University catering outlets.
- There are core prices for some bought in units, however differences occur due to menu variations, supplier variation and catering provision at campuses.
- New supplier contracts have just been confirmed which will bring prices into closer alignment.

- The University does not have control over the retail outlets pricing structure.
- There has been no feedback from Catering regarding the vegan-vegetarian motion taken to AGM.
- Students would like to form a sub-group to discuss catering prior to the new term

Action:

- Rebecca Pocock to gain approval by circulation to form a sub-group.
- Rebecca Pocock to organise a meeting of the sub-group and invite interested Council members, students, Chris Whaley and Jennine Fox.

5. Executive Team Update

Noted:

BUCs Championships

- Is the first event to be held at the Olympic Stadium in June.
- There are 6 University of Lincoln Students competing and ULSU wishes them luck.

Sports & Societies Awards

- Feedback from this event has been very positive.

Varsity

- To be held on Wednesday 25th April at Derby
- T-shirts sales have been good. All places are expected to be filled on coaches.
- Students are encouraged to go and support our teams.

Team Photos

- On 2nd May outside Harvester

HE & FE Games

- Hosted by University of Lincoln and involving Bishop Grosseteste, Grantham College, Stamford College on 4th May at the Sports Centre.

Activities

- Final S&S Council of the year has been held. Most of the development fund has gone and there are two new societies; Art and Health & Social Care. The SU wishes these new societies luck in the coming year.

Week of Action

- The walk-out on Wednesday 14th March was successful.
- The postcards filled out by Students for Karl McCartney will be sent to him soon for a response.
- There has been further research conducted in the SOAP centre on hidden course costs. The Union will be lobbying the University about this. Kayleigh Taylor (President) has taken hidden course costs information to Executive Board and it will go to the Student Experience Committee.
- The Vice-Chancellor has promised that all hidden course costs will be eliminated by September. The SU will be following this issue closely.

Election of School/College Reps

- Senior reps and College reps will be elected rather than selected this year.
- College rep voting open Tuesday 24th April and closes on the 1st May
- School Reps application forms are available on the SU website . There are 17 schools in total. The deadline for applications is the 30th April and voting is from the 1st-8th May.

Inter-Collegiate Event – 9th May 2012

- Outdoor event is planned in front of the library/architecture field.
- Old school PE Games and a BBQ will be available
- Last minute decision by Senior Rep Executive Committee, promotional information will follow soon.

Staff-Team Update

- The Staff transfer will be completed by the 1st July. SU Staff have been seconded to the Union by the University in the interim.
- Discussions around HR and Finance provision are being held by the Board of Trustees.
- The SU is in the process of recruiting a Chief Executive, an Executive Assistant, a Finance intern and a marketing intern. An Activities administrator will be recruited in due course.

NUS Conference

- Delegates from ULSU are attending the National NUS Conference this week.

Discussed:

- Efficacy of communication between NUS and the SU.
- The need to send delegates on conferences so there is two-way feedback between the organisations.
- Discussion around the circulation of agendas for conferences prior to delegates attending so students are able to contribute.

Action:

- Kayleigh Taylor to comment on relationship between NUS and the SU via e-mail with council members.

6. Report from Women's Conference

Noted:

- Victoria Caswell attended the NUS Women's Conference in Leeds on the 13th-15th March.
- The event was good, however as ULSU does not have a women's group the integration of new NUS policy in this area is more difficult.
- 73% of recent governmental cuts will affect women the most.

Discussed:

- Possibility of starting a women's group in the SU.
- Issues affecting women at University.

Noted:

- The SU would be happy to support a women's group.

Action:

- Rebecca Pocock is to circulate Victoria's report to Council.

7. Election of Student Delegates to NUS Events

Noted:

- Delegates who attend NUS National Conference are elected.
- There is no formal procedure for the election of delegates to other NUS events.
- Groups council will start next academic year and this will help with an election process.
- Students feel there is disconnection between NUS and ULSU.
- The need for the advertisement of NUS events.

Discussed:

- How NUS and other events are announced to the student body.
- Adequacy of the briefing attendees receive prior to the event.
- Formation of stronger regional links with other Student Unions to promote regional campaigns.
- Holding a regional conference at Lincoln.

Agreed:

- Officers to produce a document or collate feedback on the election of delegates, what delegates need to know prior to attending a conference, how they should vote at conferences.

Action:

- To place this matter on the agenda at Executive Committee.

8. Student Council – The Way Forward

Noted:

- Student Council is the sovereign body of the SU, therefore motions or proposals passed at Council have to be implemented by the SU.
- Students can find a guide to writing motions on the SU website.

Discussed:

- The inclusion of Council training in Reps training.
- Need for clarity, transparency and good lines of communication with Council members from Sabbs and Staff.

- Need for involvement from the academic staff in the Reps system.
- The need for more comprehensive Reps training and firmer guidelines for Reps to follow.

Noted:

- Students would like Reps to have more frequent contact and suggested a deputy school rep.

Agreed:

- Academic staff need to take more responsibility for contacting course Reps and supporting the Reps system.

Action:

- Rebecca Pocock to raise timetabling of training sessions with Welfare and Representation Department.

Discussed:

- Dates, times and location for Student Council meetings next academic year.

Noted:

- After 6pm or lunch time would be preferable for most members in attendance.

Agreed:

- To circulate possible days and times for Council to members for agreement.

Action:

- Rebecca Pocock to circulate dates and times for approval.

9. Election of a Council Chair

Noted:

- John Fernandez (Sports Officer) nominated himself for Chair.

Agreed:

- To approve by circulation.

Action:

- Rebecca Pocock to circulate for approval.

10. Student Open Session

Discussed:

- Availability of mini-sites for Teams, Societies and Groups off the main website.

Noted:

- Groups Council will meet on the 11th May to discuss format and procedures. This is not an official meeting. Committees will be invited to the meeting in due course.

11. Any Other Business

Noted:

- Applications and elections are underway for College reps and School reps respectively.
- SU Helpers applications close on Thursday 26th April, apply online.
- Volunteer logs are due in on the 2nd May . Anyone who attends Council is a volunteer and can claim hours.
- Council thanks Natalie Liddle for her time as Chair and wishes her luck in the future.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Action:

- Rebecca Pocock to circulate the date of the next meeting once the time and day have been confirmed.

I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate summary of the meeting held on 23rd April 2012, and have been approved by Student Council. These minutes will now be publicly available.

Name (Chair)

Date

Unconfirmed