Lancaster University Students' Union Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Minutes of the meeting held **Thursday 29 April 2021**

Members:	Noah Katz | Chair of AGM Oliver Robinson | LUSU President | Chair of the Trustee Board Atree Ghosh | VP Union Development Paul McCarthy | VP Sport Éabha Lynn | Motion Holder Joshua Wardrop | Motion Holder Max Kafula | BAME Students Officer Jesse Phillips | LGBTQ+ Officer Molly Lawson | Students with Disabilities Officer Amy Stanning | Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer Lydia Moodycliffe | Womens+ Officer Charli Clements | Womens+ Officer | Amy Merchant | VP Welfare Shannon McCaul | VP Societies & Media 356 members present
In Attendance:	Chris Cottam | Chair's Aide Misbah Ashraf | Interim Chief Executive Graeme Osborne | Vice-Chair of Trustee Board
Observing:	BSL Interpreter

The meeting took place on Microsoft Teams and was led by the Chair of AGM.

The Chair highlighted that the AGM requires a quorum of 498 people in attendance for decisions to be officially approved on the Articles of Association.

Agenda Item 1 | Welcome from Chair |

The Chair firstly led attendees through the format of the meeting, including how votes will be recorded and the nature of a 'Procedural Motions' which any member present can call on at any time during the meeting and has precedence over all other business.

Attendees were also presented links to the voting and meeting paper, and informed of the planned agenda items.

The President of SU informed attendees that bylaw 11.1 of the General Meeting Bylaws were changed on 29th April by the Trustee Board and Executive Committee to allow for the meeting to take place virtually.

At 18:30pm the Chair confirmed quorum had not been met for all items on the agenda, however the 356 people present means the meeting can go ahead and the business as published, with the exception of approving the Articles of Association, can proceed. Attendees noted there would be an opportunity to discuss the draft articles held within the papers link and ask questions in the meeting chat.

Following queries, the attendees noted that: roughly 200 people would be required to join the meeting if the Articles of Association were to be formally agreed | 2% of students, equating to 322, are required to vote on all other items | the Students Union's governance is split into two parts, one of which is the core fundamental rules of how the Trustee Board will operate, and the basic structure, which is called the Articles of Association. The other part of the Union's governance is the bylaws, which can be changed by the Executive Committee and Trustee Board acting in unison | If the Articles of Association are not voted on at this meeting, the Union must approach the Charity Commission and the University to request that the Articles be changed. Attendees noted that while there is a precedent within the sector for this to happen if the student body is unable to hit quorum multiple times, it is not guaranteed to be successful | the Chair will seek legal advice on whether the AGM can take an indicative vote on the Articles in this meeting, which isn't binding, but shows support to something the Union is aware it must change.

Agenda Item 2 | Ratification of the minutes of previous meetings |

Attendees were referred to the accompanying item papers and asked to vote on the ratification of the previous minutes.

Vote: The minute were approved by a majority.

Agenda Item 3 | Accounts for 2019-20 |

This item was led by the VP Union Development who referred attendees to the accompanying papers, which were taken as read and to note only.

The Chair welcomed any questions on this item. In response to a query raised, attendee's noted: the VP Union Development clarified figures to confirm that the £10k attributed to BUCS is a fee which is required to pay the national body in order to compete in their events, as opposed to that money being given to individual Sport teams. Following on from this query, the VP Union Development confirmed that the BUCS have been questioned on their fee's given that events had been cancelled due to Covid-19. The VP Sport further stated that conversations are still ongoing | the block grant is ultimately decided by the University and was cut for this year due to budget constraints faced by Covid-19.

The VP Union Development also confirmed that the red font on the accompanying presentation slide means that the Union is currently getting that service but does not know the exact figure until an invoice is received at a later date.

Agenda Item 4 | Ratification of Affiliations |

This item was led by the VP Union Development who referred attendees to the accompanying papers, which included both taken as read and areas which required a vote. The Chair welcomed any questions on this item. Attendees were asked to vote on the ratification of Affiliations.

Vote: The Affiliations were approved by a majority.

Agenda Item 5 | Approval of the New Articles of Association |

This item was led by the President of SU who gave a brief background to the item. Attendees initially noted that the Articles will not be voted on due to not hitting quorum. The Chair detailed the following major changes: the composition of the Trustee Board will be altered to include an additional Student Trustee; all four Student Trustee's will be elected by student members | the change to a Council model, which will act as the primary and political representative body of the Union with the aim of making it a democratic representative organisation | a change from 10% to 5% quorum in most cases such as uncontroversial items | the new Articles have been approved by the student body several times, though not yet done so by what is defined as quorum.

Attendees also noted that they bylaw changes are currently with the Unions lawyers and will be brought to the Executive Committee on 12th May. The President of SU also informed attendees of various changes included to bylaws, including the introduction of a carers and parents liberation campaign Officer.

Following queries raised, attendee's noted: a series of changes were made to minority representation after consultations of LCO's and focus groups. The current composition of Council required that out of sixteen councillors without portfolio, one must be a BAME student, one must be a Trans+, one must be a student with disability. The total overall quorum must be 50% Womens+ and 20% Postgraduate/Mature.

Following a comfort break, the Chair informed attendees that a procedural motion was submitted to reorder business to move voting items forward in the meeting so that students who are fasting can break the fast in the proper time.

The VP Union Development stated that all voting items will be moved forward, and business will continue afterwards on items that don't require full quorum. No attendees raised any contrary queries, therefore the Chair put the procedural motion to a vote, which passed for.

From this point onwards in the minutes, items will be listed in order that they were taken at the meeting.

Agenda Item 10 | Motion - Student Mental Health Crisis |

This proposer gave attendee's a background of the item, including the impact of Covid-19 on mental health. It was highlighted that the Union has no mandate in writing to lobby for University policies conducive to good mental health, stating that this motion will improve the mental health of individual students, staff, and the University generally.

Attendee's were asked to note that this mandate will allow the Union to put in writing the policies that Mature & Postgraduate LCO, VP Education, and the Union President have already written, as well as mandate training in suicide prevention and mental health awareness. Following these update, the Chair asked attendees to vote on this motion.

Vote: The motion was passed by a majority.

Agenda Item 10 | Motion - Student membership believes Sugarhouse to be a contentious issue |

The proposer gave a brief background of the item. The proposer stated that this motion intends to empower the membership and reiterate the democratic principle that the Union if run by the membership, further stating that he believes the Union had not followed its requirement within the Articles of Association on this matter.

The BAME Students Officer and author of the Sugarhouse renaming policy, spoke against the motion and raised arguments to the contrary; the BAME Students Officer stated his belief that the Sugarhouse policy was not contentious at all, and that the Union members followed the bylaws to the best of their ability.

The BAME Students Officer stated that they appreciatesdthe renaming of Sugarhouse was not completely transparent and apologised for this. Attendees noted that the rebranding will not negatively affect any University societies.

Following queries, attendees noted: voting for this motion would not stop the renaming of Sugarhouse; it would instead empower an appointment of a 12-person student jury who will review suggested names, make a decision and then that decision will be put to a preferenda for the whole student body to vote on | if the motion doesn't pass, it will follow what was laid out in the BAME Students Officer's policy | the rebranding would only take place if LUSU finances are in a surplus | no estimated cost of the name change has been analysed. The President of SU stated that the Students Union is in no place financially to make the change currently.

Following all discussion, attendee's were asked to vote on this motion.

Vote: The motion was approved with a simple majority.

Agenda Items 6 and 7 | Trustee Board updates / Report |

This item was led by the Chair of Trustee Board, also President of SU, who provided attendees an update on the happenings of Trustee Board. Attendees noted what the Trustee Board has been focusing on: ensuring governance is fit for the next five years, and that its commercial services are able to stay and provide a continued income for the Students Union | the financial position of the Union moving forward and closing the deficit gap.

Following queries, attendees noted: the Trustee Board does publish a range of impacts in annual reports which will be published in the Summer/Autumn term. The previous annual report can be found on the website | liberation identities remain at the heart of the Students Union, and won't change going forward. The Trustee Board will remain focused on strategic aims and stay within its bounds focusing on governance and strategic leadership rather than individual issues, which will be for the Student Council going forward.

Agenda Items 8 and 9 | Officer updates

LIBERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS OFFICERS

BAME Students Officer

The BAME Students Officer gave a brief update on matters relating to his role and welcomed any questions on the accompanying report.

LGBTQ+ Officer

The LGBTQ+ Officer gave a brief update on matters relating to their role and welcomed any questions on the accompanying report.

Students with Disabilities Officer

The Students with Disabilities Officer gave no verbal update and directed attendees to the written updates on the website. Attendees noted that the Students and Disabilities Officer is responding to the situation of some students being unable to wear a mask and producing a plan. Attendee's should follow her social media for more information.

Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer

The Postgraduate and Mature Students Officer gave a brief update on matters relating to her role and welcomed any questions on the accompanying report. Attendee's noted that the Union is currently trying to improve communications with post-graduate students.

Co-Womens+ Officers

The Co-Womens+ Officers gave no verbal update.

International Students Officer

The International Students Officer gave no verbal update.

The Chair then welcomed questions to all Officers. During discussion, attendee's noted that: LCO stands for Liberation and Campaigns Officer, which replaces Part Time Officers, which doesn't take into account the amount of work and effort put into the roles | Student Officers are fully supportive of the new Parent and Carers LCO | The Womens+ Officer, stated that discussions are ongoing whether there should be an introduction of a Mens+ role, or whether this falls under other areas. The Womens+ officer reiterated that work is ongoing to try and make things better for that group. The other Womens+ Officer, also reiterated support the statements and welcomed contact on the matter.

FULL TIME OFFICERS

VP Sport

The VP Sport provided a brief update on matters relating to his role, informing attendee's of his intention to make sure as many people as possible have the opportunity to contribute to sport over the rest of the term.

VP Union Development

The VP Union Development gave no verbal update.

VP Welfare

The VP Welfare provided a brief update on matters relating to her role and referred attendees to the accompanying report, asking attendee's to read and engage with her team.

President of SU

The President of SU thanked all Officers for their effort over the year, stating that all Officers performed exceptionally well and should be proud of themselves. The President of SU further thanked all attendee's and those are getting involved in student politics.

The Chair then welcomed questions to all Full Time Officers. During discussion, attendee's noted that: The VP Sport is aiming to develop more training for accessibility in sport, including on the subjects of race and disability | the accessibility policy not being on the website it down to an honest mistake and shall be added following the meeting. With regard to being acting on | following the approved of the Articles of Association, a Carers LCO will be introduced | the Students Union intends to align with the NUS campaign to support the offer of fee reductions relating to impacts of Covid-19, in this case specifically the effect on physical teaching

| the Students Union released communications to encourage student participation in the local elections next week – the President of SU also encourages attendees to get involved.

The Chair thanked all attendees for their input and encouraged all to contact Officers directly should they have any further queries following the meeting.