

MINUTES | LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held on **Monday 28th October 2019**

FULL-TIME OFFICER MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hannah Prydderch | Vice President (Union Development)
George Nuttall | President
Bee Morgan | Vice President (Education)
Lewis Marriott | Vice President (Campaigns and Communications)
Grishma Bijukumar | Vice President (Welfare and Community)

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Callum Penn | Grizedale JCR President (Chair of Meeting)
Chris Ebulu | BME Students' Officer
Nicolas Lamare | International Students' Officer
Mitch Boocock | LGBTQ+ Officer
Gigi Bruschi & Sarah Pennington | Students' with Disabilities Officer
Lydia Moodycliffe | Women+ Officer

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Graeme Osborn | External Trustee
Jenna Higham | Student Trustee
Kathy New | Student Trustee

IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Cottam | Education and Support Manager | Chair's Aide

ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM

The meeting was confirmed as quorate

Point of Order: A question was put to the chair as to why the meeting as an annual general meeting and not an ordinary general meeting.

The VP Union Development confirmed the Students' Union is required to hold an annual general meeting to approve additional item of business which are on the agenda on an annual basis and as this was a quorate general meeting it was agreed this business should go to the meeting for student members to approve and/or discuss.

Procedural Motion: To Change the order of business to move item 6 – Motions on the Agenda to be the first item of business.

Vote: The procedural motion was approved.

6. MOTIONS

1) Save Our Sugarhouse

A motion for the Students Union to not approve the potential sale of the sugarhouse and to end negotiations about its potential sale.

Vote: 'Saving our Sugarhouse' **was approved** by show of hands and by proxy vote (proxy votes were 919, against 10, abstain 9)

2) Sugarhouse Student Referendum Result

A motion to amend the articles of association which state the Union may overturn any decision made by a student referendum.

Point of Information: Under charity law an referenda result cannot bind a trustee board or individual trustees to act or vote in a certain way as law permits that only trustees can decide what will best enable the charity to carry out its purposes.

Point of Order: Under 4.8 of the Trustee Conduct the meeting calls on the President of the Students' Union as Chair of the Trustee Board to allow all trustee board members to discuss openly any decisions made by the trustee board as individuals

The Students' Union President and Chair of the Trustee Board confirmed that if the motion on 'Approval to Mandate Full and Part Time Officers to Take a Public Political Stance on the Potential Sale of The Sugarhouse' was approved they would lift the embargo on full time officers to discuss their views on the sale of the Sugarhouse.

Vote: 'The Sugarhouse Student Referendum Result' was approved by show of hands and by proxy vote (proxy votes were for, 896, against 13, abstain 26)

3) Changes to the Articles of Association, making referendum results legally binding'

A motion for the Students' Union to amend the article stating that the Trustee Board may overturn any decision made by a Student Referendum, in the case of the Sugarhouse Student Referendum and to allow for the result of the Sugarhouse Student Referendum to be lawful and binding.

Point of Information: *Under charity law the Students' Union cannot bind a trustee board or individual trustees to act or vote in a certain way as law permits that only trustees can decide what will best enable the charity to carry out its purposes and/or which would remove the ability for the charity to ensure that it complies with charity law requirements and other laws that apply to the charity.*

Vote: 'Changes to the Articles of Association, making referendum results legally binding' was approved by show of hands and by proxy vote (proxy votes were for, 783, against 27, abstain 124)

4) Approval to Mandate Full and Part Time Officers to Take a Public Political Stance on the Potential Sale of The Sugarhouse

A motion that full time and part-time officers must take a public stance on the sale of The Sugarhouse in their capacity as a political leads by the end of Week 4.

Procedural Motion: *To take the item straight to a vote*

Vote: *The procedural motion was approved.*

The item was taken straight to a vote.

Vote: 'Approval to Mandate Full and Part Time Officers to Take a Public Political Stance on the Potential Sale of The Sugarhouse' was approved by show of hands and proxy vote (proxy votes were for 633, against 98, abstain 203)

The meeting was adjourned for a 10 minute access break

5) All Future Trustee Board Meetings to be livestreamed

A motion that all future Trustee Board meetings be live streamed and then the recordings kept on the Unions website for one year so that students may under the decisions board makes.

A question was taken from the floor that based on an earlier point of order where the President and Chair of Trustee Board would sanction under 4.8 of the trustee code of conduct whereby full time officers are able to express their opinions on the sale of sugarhouse if the motion 'Mandate Full and Part Time Officers to Take a Public Political Stance on the Potential Sale of The Sugarhouse' were to pass, what is the opinion of the full time officers and how did they vote.

The President. VP Union Development, VP Education, VP Welfare & Community and VP Campaigns and Communications expressed that they voted to not go into negotiations to sell the Sugarhouse and they were in support of it staying open and they voted for it to be suspended depending the outcome of the referenda in week 8 of term.

Vote: 'All Future Trustee Board Meetings to be livestreamed' was approved by show of hands and proxy vote (proxy votes were for 610, against 25, abstain 300)

6) Approve Appointment of Student Trustees by Week 8'

A motion to appoint, and fully approve through executive committee and trustee board, all student trustees positions that are currently going through recruitment by week 8 of term.

Procedural Motion: To take the item straight to a vote

Vote: The procedural motion was approved.

The item was taken straight to a vote.

Vote: 'Approve Appointment of Student Trustees by Week 8' **was approved** by show of hands and proxy vote (proxy votes were for 579, against 18, abstain 336)

Procedural Motion: To extend the meeting by 30 minutes

Vote: The procedural motion was approved.

7) Discussion on union position on potential industrial action taken by union staff.

A motion to discuss at the AGM potential industrial action so the VP Education will use this to inform their paper they will take to Executive Committee for the final vote to support or condemn industrial action taken by Lancaster University staff.

Amendments were submitted on the motion to support future industrial action in line with the procedures.

Vote on Amendment: The amendment **was approved** by show of hands and proxy vote (proxy votes were for 345, against 99, abstain 539)

Procedural Motion: To take the item straight to a vote

Vote: The procedural motion was approved.

Vote: 'Discussion on union position on potential industrial action taken by union staff'. These were approved and the amended motion **was approved** by show of hands and proxy vote (proxy votes were for 306, against 48, abstain 577)

8) 'Climate Emergency'

A motion to for the Students' Union and the University to call a climate emergency and for the Union to demand that the University divest from fossil fuels and for the University to introduce an ethical investment policy and for the University to cut all ties with Barclays bank.

Procedural Motion: The procedural motion to take the motion in parts and to vote on the clause against Barclays separately to the rest of the motion.

Vote: The procedural motion was not approved.

Procedural Motion: To take the item straight to a vote

Vote: The procedural motion was approved.

Vote: 'Climate Emergency' **was approved** by show of hands and proxy vote (proxy votes were for 739, against 56, abstain 139)

Procedural Motion: To adjourn the meeting to a later date.

Vote: The procedural motion was not approved.

Procedural Motion: To extend the meeting by 30 mins.

Vote: The procedural motion was approved.

9) Motion on Affordable Student Housing

A motion to support efforts to form a tenants union, to condemn unjustifiable rent issues in university accommodation, adopt the NUS definition of affordable housing, support the national aim of a rent strike and students choosing to assist students taking part and establish a rent control group.

Procedural Motion: To take the item straight to a vote

Vote: The procedural motion was approved.

Vote: Motion on Affordable Student Housing was approved by show of hands and proxy vote (proxy votes were for 740, against 33, abstain 161)

10) Union Democratisation'

A motion to demand the University re-establish the University Court and restore non-academic staff and Lancaster City Council representation on the University Council; to reintroduce directly elected student position on University Council; to implement a fully elected Trustee Board (consisting solely of the six Full-Time Officers, and five student trustees, at least two of whom must be elected from, by and for post-graduate students); and to convene a constitutional convention to review amend byelaws and articles of association

Procedural Motion: To take the item straight to a vote

Vote: The procedural motion was approved.

Vote: 'Union Democratisation' was approved by show of hand and proxy vote (proxy votes were for 607, against 18, abstain 208)

11) Increased Student Input in Union Spending

A motion to hold an annual student consultation on what the funding priorities should be for the following year; to set up a Budget Committee, and for more regular reporting to go to general meeting.

Procedural Motion: To take the item straight to a vote

Vote: The procedural motion was approved.

Vote: Motion on 'Increased Student Input in Union Spending' was approved by show of hands and proxy vote (proxy votes were for 714, against 26, abstain 194)

12) Amendment of the Articles of Association on Trustee Board Powers over the Chief Executive

The motion on 'Amendment of the Articles of Association on Trustee Board Powers over the Chief Executive' was withdrawn by the proposer following legal advice

Procedural Motion: To Change the order of business to move item 5 – questions to trustees and officers to be the next item of business.

Vote: The procedural motion was not approved.

1. STUDENTS' UNIONS ACCOUNTS

The Vice-President Union Development introduced the report on the audited accounts from the annual report.

Questions were received as to clarify how much money had been received by the Students' Union as part of the marketing deal the Students' Union had with Aparito; if expenditure had increased on mental health provision and the details of the increased expenditure contribution for the pensions deficit. The VP Union Development confirmed they didn't have this information to hand but would report it back at a later date.

Procedural Motion: To adjourn the remainder of the meeting to a later date.

Vote: The procedural motion was approved.

The chair confirmed that the remaining items of business will be scheduled for a later meeting of which the date and time would have to be confirmed and thanked all those who attended in the meeting and who voted by proxy.

The meeting was formally adjourned

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