

MINUTES | LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PART II – ADJOURNED MEETING

Meeting held on **9th March 2020**

FULL-TIME OFFICER MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Nuttall | President
Bee Morgan | Vice President (Education)
Victoria Hatch | Vice President (Activities)
Lewis Marriott | Vice President (Campaigns and Communications)
Grishma Bijukumar | Vice President (Welfare and Community)

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Fabia Askari | Faculty Rep (Chair of Meeting)
Chris Ebulu | BME Students' Officer
Mitch Boocock | LGBTQ+ Officer
Gigi Bruschi | Students' with Disabilities Officer
Lydia Moodycliffe | Women+ Officer

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM

The meeting was confirmed, as not being quorate as there were not 150 members present at the meeting therefore was unable to conduct the formal business of the rescheduled Annual General meeting from October 2019.

As the quorum was not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such other day, time and place as the Trustees may determine.

The student members present were however given an opportunity to discuss and ask questions on the items of the business on the agenda.

AFFILIATIONS

Members present were offered the chance to ask question on the Students' Unions Affiliations to external organisations. Members asked questions around the membership fee for the National Union of Students and its current value for money. The Students' Union President provided a point of information on the types of activities/areas on which the NUS spend affiliations monies received and clarified that that the fee also included the Students' Unions membership into the NUS Trading Consortium.

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Students' Union President as Chair of the Trustee Board provided a verbal report on the work of the Trustee Board over the last 12 months. This included:

- The Board have appointed two new student trustees, Eloise Frost and Sam Maesschalck to serve a term of 12 months.
- The Board have commissioned and brought forward the Democracy & Governance Review, responding to the points raised at the Annual General meeting Part I held in October 2019.
- The Board have started the investment of capital expenditure into the Sugarhouse venue to ensure it is fit for purpose and sustainable going forward.
- The Board have approved funding for a fixed term staff post to work on a project supporting postgraduate students.

No questions were received from the members present.

OFFICER REPORTS

The officer reports have been published to the student members in advance of the meeting and were taken as read. The following information is provided as supplementary information to those reports

BME Students Officer

- Working on reviewing data around the black attainment gap
- Looking into securing funding for activities around Black History Month next year.
- Provided support to the Why is My Curriculum White Campaign

Students with Disabilities Officer

- Working on promoting and supporting the student forum
- Assisted the Disabilities service in promoting a survey we produced to understand the experienced of students at Lancaster.
- Developed a SWD Support Handbook which is available for students
- Working with disabilities officers in departments to look into lecture capture for student with disabilities
- Campaigning for the university to develop training for staff on student Institutional learning Support Plans (ILSPs)
- Requested to sit on future project executive boards for new building developed on campus to ensure they are accessible for students with disabilities.

LGBTQ+ Students Officer

- Ran the 'They Matter' campaign with the Womens+ officer on gender pronouns and introduced pronoun badges for students who want them.
- Ran a LGBTQ+ Icons campaign as part of LGBTQ+ History Month
- Co-ordinated a vigil as part of Trans Day of Remembrance.
- Exploring bringing guest speakers to the forum meetings
- Hosting weekly coffee meetings
- Working with Su President to update Trans Working policy in university.

Womens+ Students Officer

- Ran the 'They Matter' campaign with the LGBTQ+ officer on gender pronouns and introduced pronoun badges for students who want them.
- Developing a Gender Neutral toilets map for campus.
- Set up a Women's History Month campaign
- Have set up an 'She Should Run' campaign for during elections to encourage for self-defining women to nominate themselves
- Organising an reclaim the night march in Lancaster
- Working with the other Part-time officer on an intersectional positive body image campaign.

Members present were offered the chance to ask question to the part-time officers. Questions were asked to all the officers if they have signed the open letter to the University about the suspension of the trans working group. The officers all responded that they had or were signing the open letter. The VP Education confirmed that officers had also raised the issue at university senate about the suspension of the group and the VP Welfare & Community reported they had been liaising with the University also around re-establishing the group.

No further questions were asked to the part-time officers.

Vice President Welfare & Community

- Working on a sexual respect campaign including research and launching the Lancaster Supports Sexual Respect including embedding this into the All-In programme, and working with the University on the Bullying harassment and Sexual Misconduct procedures, ensuring engagement of the PTOs in the process
- Launched free confidential sexual health drop ins for students at Lancaster, working in partnership with an organisation called Renaissance. This also includes providing free HIV testing for students on campus.
- Worked with Green Lancaster on sustainability agenda and launched the SU Climate Emergency working group.
- Supported colleges in establishing welfare committees
- Worked with University Dean of EDI to set up a student working group to ensure student items are taken to the University Edi committee
- Launching a micro-aggressions campaign and supported Black History Month including setting up a pledge
- Leading on a student consultation so we can respond to the local HMO consultation
- Working on a period dignity campaign with the university and ran an alcohol awareness week.
- Lobbied the University and secured £3000 for a student community fund.

Students' Union President

- Established a Students' Union communication work stream to look at improving student communications with members, with a key focus on colleges and JCRs
- Launched student group of the week initiative alongside the VP Activities
- Lobbied the university to introduce welfare and signposting training to all staff
- Introduced drug testing kits in the Students' Union to encourage safer student behaviours
- Working on BAME Attainment gap and spoke to University on it
- Introduced a promotion. Relegations and cup competition for college sport, and developing recreational sport leagues
- Led on the change of the VP Activities role to become VP Sports and VP Societies and Media
- Signed open letter to UUK to re-enter negotiations with UCU on industrial action and signed a letter on the All Parliamentary student Group on students to review the student loan system
- Pushed the University on climate emergency and to adopt ecosia as the default search engine
- Worked with the VP Education on lobbying the university about sustainable student number growth.

Vice President Education

- Lobbied the University about sustainable student number growth
- Launched the Top 10 education demands from students to the University
- Pushed the University to reduce the number of 6-7pm lecture, have achieved a reduction for next year but still not zero yet
- Produced a report on group work marking on what students do and don't like about student group work marking, in collaboration with academic reps
- Pushed the university to launch a review of academic tutors
- Worked with the University on the establishing of the Doctoral Academy
- Ran PGR 'Eat and Critique' events for students to feedback to the union
- Hidden Course Costs – working with the university on reviewing this.
- Lobbied the University for more online submission and there has been £100,000 reduction in the total amount of money spent on printing by students, putting money back in students pockets and helping the environment
- Ensuring student feedback is provided into the new library extension, and securing the reinstatement of budget for student desired furniture
- Re-hauled the academic rep system and secured funding for lead reps in departments to run campaigns
- Passed policy at Executive Committee to boycott University Open Day and Applicant visit days until the University commits to more sustainable growth
- Have supported the UCU industrial action and co led a teach out session with UCU and supporting students to make complaints to the University.

- Ensuring student feedback has been provided into the review of exceptional circumstances and so that there is a reduced evidence burden that is having to be placed on students to provide evidence.

Vice President Campaigns and Communications

- Ran up pop up Union events on campus in Alex Square on 'What is your Students' union' and 'Why Should you vote', this format is developing into an SU on tour format and showcasing student groups
- Ran the 'Ask your officers' events on social media to improve engagement with students
- Championed the use of the St Discussion board on facebook
- Pushed the union to produce a recorded trustee board update after each meeting for student members.
- Ran a Roses student media summit and a student media summit mingle to increase participation in those groups
- Successfully got an SU media button on the iLancaster homepage
- Ran the 'Don't Lose Your Cool' campaign to promote positive student wellbeing for students, including setting up a chill out zone for students in exam time.
- Co-led on the SU general election campaign
- Ran JCR awards in first term and set up a central group for all media and communications officers in JCRS

Vice President Activities

- New into the role and have only undertaken half a term of the role.
- Secured funding to make the Roses event for sustainable, enduring no plastic water bottles are sold, undertaking a carbon audit of the event and running a cup deposit scheme.
- Ran a sustainable lifestyle campaign under the brand of 'Pure Lancaster' encouraging sustainable commuting, promoting sustainable nutrition for competitors.
- Supported staff and officers in the delivery of recreational sport programmes
- Ran workshops on accessibility for students in sport and making activities more accessible
- Reviewed the societies committee to be relaunched in term 3

The Chair reported that the Vice President Union Development had resigned from their role and wanted to formally thank them for their contribution to the Students' Union and University.

The Members present were offered the chance to ask question to the Full-Time officers on policies or political decisions made.

A question were asked for an update on the chaplaincy review. The VP Welfare and Community reported that they have been involved in a University reflection period to look at introducing more spaces for campus faith groups, including permanent spaces for Hindu and Sikh students. These consultations are ongoing and student groups will continue to be engaged with.

A question was asked on what the VP Activities was doing to support non-sports based societies. The VP Activities reported they were re-writing the terms of reference for societies committee and working groups to understand what support they need and how they can best access the operational support in the Students' Union for societies.

A question was asked to the VP Education on increasing the diversity of international university students if there is an increase in student numbers. The VP Education reported that more needs to be done to ensure there is a global experience for students and pushing that the Erasmus+ programme or an equivalent should be kept. It was also reported the programme level reviews can help push the need to produce and promote a more global experience for students, including the establishing of more pre-arrival modules an this is something the union will work toward.

A question was asked about compost bins at the EcoHub and having more sustainable bins on campus. The VP Activities reported that they will continue to push the university on this to introduce more on campus and encouraged students to also submit any ideas in these area on the Students' Union ideas system.

A question was asked about whether the All In project scope could be extended to include societies and the scope for additional criteria to be included, for example disabilities. The VP Activities confirmed it was a trail at present and the plan was to roll it out to student societies going forward

Questions asked about the recent resignation of the VP Union Development and the members present were asked to note that as this is an ongoing and live matter the Union wouldn't be able to comment on it at this stage.

A question was asked at what was discussed at the all parliamentary group. The SU President confirmed they didn't know the specifics but could come back to members with more details.

A question was asked about what the Union will do to push the university to provide more support to international students and to reduce segregation of international students in university accommodation. The VP Education reported that they will continue to push the university around more pre-enrolment modules and also continue to offer English language and learning support for international students in faculties. The VP Welfare reported that they would commit to looking into the matter with the University and report back at a later date.

A question was asked about how contextual admissions would help BAME students now. The VP Education reported that the university acknowledged there was an issue and the contextual admissions was a step to help improve things going forward however acknowledged and expressed regret that this would not do more to help students currently at the university.

The meeting was adjourned and the chair thanked the student members present for their attendance.