



Union Assembly Agenda

Agenda for the emergency meeting held: **THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2024, 10AM – 12PM**

The Chair introduced the meeting, explained the need for the meeting to hit quoracy to take a vote on agenda item 1, and called for the agenda item 2 to be taken first.
Apologies were received from: Frankie Lynch-Brown, Harrison Stewart & Huseyn Guliyev.

Agenda Item 1|For Approval | Full-Time Officer Team

Cerys Evans, President

Coversheet: [Agenda Item 1 - Coversheet.docx](#)

Byelaws:

[Agenda Item 1 - 1. Membership Byelaw.docx](#)

[Agenda Item 1 - 2. Trustee Board Byelaw.docx](#)

[Agenda Item 1 - 3. Full Time Officer Byelaw.docx](#)

[Agenda Item 1 - 5. Full Time Officer Group Byelaw.docx](#)

[Agenda Item 1 - 6. Democracy and Elections Byelaw.docx](#)

[Agenda Item 1 - 8. Student Groups.docx](#)

Cerys Evans introduced the paper and proposed changes to the byelaws.

Luke Owen queried the omission of a lead Officer for international and postgraduate students in the shared team objectives.

Cerys Evans: we didn't want a competing Officer with the LCOs and other representative leaders for postgraduate students. There is a growing need for the Students' Union to get better at representing postgraduates and international students.

Luke Owen: would you be concerned that we wouldn't be focusing on those people and following through to ensure actions are taken.

Cerys Evans: this would be covered by the LCOs, societies and PG Board provided the dual accountability mechanism. We want it to be actual international and postgraduate students holding us to account.

Luke Owen: I believe the Activities Officer role is too big and they will struggle to provide equitable focus throughout the year.

Cerys Evans: I had a productive meeting with student media and how we support them through the Students' Union. Using the league champion as a direct link to the Officer. We are trying to improve the ability of groups, through Societies and Sports Committees to hold us to account.

Santi Siabato: I too had a big concern about the remit of the Activities Officer. The most important thing I have done is create the league champions. Provides other leaders in the societies space and someone else who can liaise with staff. Sports Committee also provides avenues for students' views and concerns to be heard and actioned.

Luke Owen: I am really concerned by the scale of the workload, especially around Roses.

Cerys Evans: read out some comments from Jack Watson – Sports Committee is in the process of creating a Vice Chair role to provide more leadership in Sport and accountability of the Activities Officer.

Cerys Evans: it is important to remember the operational support available through staff. Officers role is to take on political role, particularly with the University. This works best with one person, as University restricts seats for student representatives in key decision-making spaces. We are currently unable to have both Santi and Jack on the University's Student Experience Committee due to a lack of seats.

Luke Owen: have you spoken to the Trustees about the use of the cost savings involved in reducing the number of Officers.

Cerys Evans: I met the Student Trustees yesterday and I believe the support for this (the only recommendation on the table) is strong however I cannot speak to this fully until the Board has met. This money will be ring-fenced for student purposes. We can't discuss specifics now, the discussion at Trustee Board is more focused on the additional support needed with the new Officer structure.

Luke Owen: would this move from 6 to 4 FTOs on the Board.

Cerys Evans: we are hoping to move to a structure of 4 FTOs, 4 Student Trustees, and 4 External Trustees.

Luke Owen: I would be more comfortable approving 5 posts, rather than 4. It is a difficult position for JCR Presidents as this is our first action in-post. I would be happier if we could delay.

Cerys Evans: I completely understand. If we do not approve today, we would have to elect 6 Officers for next academic year. I don't think that this change will happen again in the next 5 years. I want to lift up my team, they have made some very difficult admissions that their roles are not fit for purpose, in particular Santi and Jack. We haven't had a team this willing to change in the last 3 years. It has come up repeatedly that there are too many Officers and too little staff, but FTO Teams have been unwilling to make that change during their terms. Staff generally make sure the Union runs smoothly. Officers do amazing work but exist to campaign for change. We are unlikely to get an opportunity to do this again. Your position is unenviable, voting for something you did not for in-principle. Please vote how you feel fit. My belief is that a small FTO Team benefits societies, JCRs, and sports teams.

Rory O'Ceallaigh: we as Presidents have Jemma who is very effective. My understanding is that those removed FTO roles would be replaced by staff in areas such as media, societies, sports. Is that correct? If that is the case then I am happy.

Cerys Evans: that is the intention

Sam Hedges: my role has changed the least. Education has always been a role that has been quite well put together and my working days are very different. The sports and societies roles have always been drawn into operational work. This change would give students and student leaders more time directly in-contact with relevant staff support. I think this will change a lot of what we will hear in FTO exit interviews. We will be able to have the capacity to better support FTO campaigns and projects to completion. This will make the Students' Union feel more studenty.

Thomas Cross: a few weeks ago, I wanted 5. To be boring and pragmatic if this is a choice between no change and change that can be tweaked in the future. We can look again at this and review once in-place. I would encourage people to support this – it is bold and dynamic. Most SUs have 4 or 5 and it works.

Josh Newsham: I want to explain why we have 6 Officers. In the past, there was a drive to create Officers roles to undertake operation work for the benefit for students. This is not how it should be done. We do see this in election manifestos; for Societies and Media has been around opening re-affiliations and better room bookings. Us having more time with the University, will create more effective change in the future. We have operation staff to do the

operational aspects of the Students' Union's work. The VP Union Development role was created to divert work away from the President.

Santi Siabato: affiliations are very much operational.

Votes were cast by liking options in the Teams chat:

FOR (16)

AGAINST (0)

ABSTAIN (2)

Union Assembly was informed during the meeting that the proposed changes to the byelaws had been approved.

Unfortunately due to administrative error, this was not correct. The vote did not meet the quoracy of 19.

Union Assembly members were asked to vote again, digitally, after the meeting via a Microsoft Form. The form included all parts of the agenda item and the draft minutes of the meeting. Voting took place from Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th January. The threshold for a definite, quorate decision was met on Friday 12th January.

The results of the binding, digital vote were:

FOR (23)

AGAINST (0)

ABSTAIN (4)

Agenda Item 2 | For Discussion | Update from NUS Delegates

Harrison Stewart, lead NUS Delegate 23/24

Cerys Evans, NUS Delegate 23/24

Josh Newsham, NUS Delegate 23/24

Nathan Mooney, NUS Delegate 23/24

Noah Katz, NUS Delegate 23/24

Thomas Cross, NUS Delegate 23/24

This item was taken first on the agenda.

Cerys Evans introduced the agenda item, explained the role of NUS Delegate, and the NUS Delegates in attendance.

Cerys Evans introduced the three policy theme areas from the NUS Delegates: harm reduction, mental health duty of care, and the right to food.

Josh Newsham explained the background behind NUS' past work on harm reduction in drugs and alcohol.

Josh Newsham also provided some background on recent developments in the legal duty of care responsibilities of universities.

Noah Katz explained the inclusion of the right to food, impact of the cost of living, and how this relates to the work of LUSU Pantry and the LUSU Supper Club.

No questions.

Noah Katz provided background on the recent work of NUS and how the policy submission and approval process will work.

Thomas Cross raised concerns that there may need to be a vote on the policy theme options.

Josh Newsham requested a vote.

Chair clarified voting procedure and members ability to vote for one option.

OPTION 1: HARM REDUCTION (4 votes)

OPTION 2: MENTAL HEALTH DUTY OF CARE (4 votes)

OPTION 3: RIGHT TO FOOD (10 votes)

Union Assembly voted for the NUS Delegates to take a policy related to the right to food to NUS National Conference 2024.

Agenda Item 7 | Any Other Business

Josh Newsham: some of our cost of living support has been approved. Support Club is starting again, the first one is being sponsored by Dominoes. Next Thursday at 6pm.

Sam Hedges: I would like to thank Cerys for her work on this proposal. She has done in 2 months what should take a year. Well done for getting this through.

Josh Newsham: highest consultation on byelaws changes in a while.

Santi Siabato: well done Cerys.