**Minutes for Student Council**

**18th February 2014**

**5.15pm room EEG132**

1. Attendance; Kynton Swingle, Tom Clarke, Lee Collyer, Paul Johnston (Chief Executive), Ruth Christie (Membership services manager), Zac Pritchard, Wesley Hudson, Luciana Blaha, Luke Hennessy, Emily Saunders, Shakil Ahmed, Cathy Sutcliffe, Chantal Vinyard, Lauren Adams, Elliot Nixon, Katie Vass, Holly Fields, Deborah South, Mike Wright, Joe Lee, Helen Manners, Alexandra Girigan, Charley Goss, Letitia Rodgers, Ellen Joyce, Erik Berglund, Sara-Jayne Boughton, Hugo Sugg, Amy Stringer, Charlie Young and Elmira Seidali.
2. Apologies; none.
3. Absent;
4. Minutes and accuracy of last meeting dated: (12/12/2013).
5. Matters Arising: Erik Berglund was voted onto council with a unanimous vote.
6. Declaration of Interest; mature students made a declaration of interest.

**AGENDER**

1. Officer Reports; the main focus was on the first semester.

It was pointed out by Kynton that student council need to point out aspects in the reports that are not relevant and that students need to raise any issues they have with any reports. Lee discussed issues with students who aren’t getting involved, currently analysing data on surveys that have been collected from students. Mental health day occurred the next day and the students union has taken a joint approach with the university on mental health which it hadn’t done previously. A dialogue has been opened between the university and the students union about night line which the university are currently looking into, more discussion on the topic of nightline later on the agenda. Instead of just one day for mental health, a week was suggested but there was lack of time on Lee’s part and more ideas from the council are needed for activities for mental health. If council has any suggestions please email Lee.

Tom discussed StARs training, there are 486 StARs but only 131 are trained which concerned a few people. This was because many did not turn up to the training sessions provided; much was done to advertise the benefits of these training sessions but we can’t force people. Tom stated that it’s trying to strike a balance between how much to ask from the StARs. Helen pointed out that stars only have to attend one training session which could explain the numbers. Ellen recently attended NUS conference and found that our university was leading in the amount of StARs who are trained compared to other universities. It was pointed out that there may be a need for re training which will be looked into. Ruth pointed out that there is online training for anyone to access. Main concern is that the students union do not know who the StARs are if they are not on the system, hard to find the StARs who are not known. A suggestion was made that students who may not want to be a StAR anymore are not sure how to go about this, promoting a support system was suggested which tom will look into further. Tom also explained that if a StAR does not want to continue they need to go to their course leader star co coordinator. The purpose of the forums were that certain university staff depending on the theme of that forum answered direct questions to students immediately. The second forum only 33 people attended, this was explained that approval is needed by John Ryan for what the themes are and it was only told 2 days before which meant advertisement only went out 2 days before. Internal student survey where £1000 spend is currently being discussed between John Ryan and what to spend that on and a meeting has been set up. StARs co coordinators and the institute representatives work with what the spending should be on. It was stated that any further questions email Kynton, Lee or Tom.

Part Time officers- Representation Officer; It was explained that during fresher’s they had people go round halls speaking to fresher’s about what the students union is and what events were happening and most students came. Found that face to face interaction with students is most effective. The role of the representation officer was discussed which was believed that the role is redundant. Welfare will be involved which was previously discussed in the last meeting.

Raise and Give Officer; Luke discussed the four charities the student’s union back which are Future sense, Leukaemia Care, Worcester Rep Centre and St Richards Hospice. St Richards Hospice was voted the university charity of the year. Luke discussed that he doesn’t have an exact amount that has been raised for all the charities as it is ongoing fundraising. There is an expedition to Peru this summer which 8 people have raised £1000 each for their January targets, and an overall target of £30,000 for the Peru trip roughly will be made. All other fundraising is ongoing as the charities are looking for the students to get involved. There will be a meeting in the next few weeks for an event for Leukaemia Care charity to organise. General view that students need to be better informed of these fundraising events. The four charities are also listed on the website for students to view. For advertising through university emails, the information sent out needs to be selective, there are other communication techniques already used such as Facebook, Twitter and the screens in the SU bar.

International students officer; It was discussed that Facebook has been used to help international students to communicate effectively through this rather than emails which tend to be less responsive. Face to face interaction has shown to be most effective in response and gets the relevant information across directly. Concern that other students aren’t seeing this may isolate international students and not integrate them, there needs to be more openness of information which will be changed in the future. The events that have been going on in semester 1 include induction session, trips to Birmingham, Halloween events, Chinese New Year party, Christmas events and language cafe discussions. There was also a concern that the international officer is accountable to international centre of the university which will be looked into further. There was an awareness day at Sheffield University but hasn’t been a lot of publication on this. Concern that international students are not getting enough support, international committee needs to engage with the international centre and the students union to support this and help ideas for events and to advertise them. Students have not seen any of these events advertised which comes down to them not using the students union enough. It was discussed that it may have become an exclusive social group and it needs to engage with other students as well. Using the SU will help include other students. A suggestion was made of having a non-international student on the committee to help engage students. The international students have been asked to invite non international students to events. There have also been students going round halls, face to face and there was an agreement that there will be more involvement with the students union.

Diversity officer; General thought that it was very informative. HIV positive people are more likely to be related to LGBT as they are statistically more likely to have the disease; also charities will also connect more with those people. Emily and Zac are working together for women’s representation which will be discussed privately for any issues. There was a group discussion for dyslexia which was last minute for a specific course group which was the reason this wasn’t made available for others to discuss. There will be a report submitted to the university about how they knew about these issues from July.

It was pointed out that the mature student’s officer has stepped down as of today as she could no longer give enough time to the role. There is no longer a mature student’s officer; at the next elections a new officer will be appointed.

1. Motions from the floor;

Nightline – proposing that the university looks into developing this, to engage in a conversation about this with the university. It is a demand from students to have that support and the procedure and details will be discussed later. The motion was seconded by Ellen Joyce, 26 people voted for, 1 against. The motion was passed.

Halal Meat – It has been shown that there is a demand for this. Primary and secondary schools already provide this; felt that the university should provide this. There was a concern for supply and demand and cost issues. There was a belief that the opportunity should be there for students who want it, could start with just in sandwiches. The motion was decided that the students union will pressure the university to campaign on the demand. The motion was seconded 29 voted for, no one against, no one abstaining. The motion was passed.

ATOS – motion to ban this, a way how the government assess disabilities for benefits. Want to ban this organisation from the students union and also speak to the university to prevent them from recruiting staff. The students union will go to all political organisations and declare that we don’t want ATOS and clinical assessment would be preferred. The motion was seconded, 19 voted for, 2 voted against and 7 abstained. The motion was passed.

Students union staff pay – Realisation we are paying under the living wage to all SU staff, wanting to look into the feasibility of increasing this to the living wage. All SU staff in the room declared an interest as they work there. All staff are currently being paid minimum wage over 21 years. To pay the living wage this would increase by £1.34, and it needs to be considered what effect this would have to the SU. This would amount to an expenditure of around £20,000, which would mean prices would have to go up in the bar and shop. The motion is for the finance department to find out whether this is financially possible for the students union and for this to be put forward to the trustees. The motion was seconded by Kynton Swingle, 10 voted for, 8 voted against. The motion was passed.

Hardship Fund – All savings made from the university go towards hardship fund. Most other universities have been found to put savings from strikes into this fund. This money is distributed to the most vulnerable, even though this may be a small amount. The students union will look to open up an ongoing dialogue with the university to understand what is being done with this. The motion was seconded, 21 voted for, 6 abstained. The motion was passed.

1. New Sports and Societies;

Mature students constitution - unanimous vote, passed.

Poker society – Being put on hold until the next meeting as there were a few queries on whether they pay membership and it needed more clarification on some points. For any queries contact Lee.

Futsal society – unanimous vote, passed.

Archaeology society – unanimous vote, passed.

1. Any other business; There was a discussion on communication of officers; a suggestion was made to have a notice board to post information for each officer. However it was pointed out that most information goes on the website and this is updated regularly and can get the information across better. The SU on tour event aimed to engage with the students and gain feedback. Forms were given out to all council members and should be returned to the SU welcome desk. A reminder that V records need to be filled in and need to be handed in by 11th April. Concern about the mature officer stepping down as all mature students will not be represented; representation officer will provide support for this until elections, which the mature officer may start earlier than others.
2. Date of next meeting: 11/03/14

The meeting closed at 7pm.