**Student Council Meeting Minutes – 22/10/2012**

**Room EEG164**

1. **Attendance**

Saransh Agarwal (Chair), Kynton Swingle, Sam Uppal, Lee Collyer, Oliver Russell (Sports), Emily Goodall (Representation), James Brice (Representation), Consuela Rusu (International Students), Luciana Blaha (International Students), Sergio Margarit (International Students), Duncan Stafford (Sustainability), Eugeni Velinov (Raise And Give), Robert Nillson (Raise And Give), Anna Rapp (Raise And Give), Paul Johnston, Dave Tomkins (Minutes)

1. **Apologies**

Mark Bonnes (Mature Students) – Course Commitments

1. **Absences**

None

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

Previous meeting held months previously with minutes irrelevant.

1. **Matters Arising**

Previous meeting held months previously with minutes irrelevant. Therefore no matters arising.

1. **Declaration of Interest**

Paul explained Declarations of Interest to Student Council. No Declarations of Interest made.

1. **Officers Report**

Kynton gave an overview to Student Council of the Sabbatical Officer report based on the Minutes of the Trustee Meeting held on 16/10/2012. Starting with Fresher’s Week, Kynton related the success of the events held at St. John’s campus. However events at City Campus were not as successful. Lecturers based at City Campus have mentioned the lack of Student Union presence there but Kynton has stressed that it is the Student’s views that need to be ascertained. A survey of students at City Campus will be undertaken. Continuing on this theme Kynton said that the G.O.A.T.ing (Going Out And Talking) process is being continued.

Kynton informed Student Council of the National Demo organised by the NUS taking place on November 21st. A talk from NUS will be delivered to students in the Yelland Lecture theatre on 23/10/2012

Lee updated Student Council on University Sport, informing the Council that extra funding was being made available from the Institute of Sport for the higher achieving sports teams. The university has hired a Sports Performance Administrator who will work with Hannah Chenneour-Cocking (the Students’ Union Sports and Societies Coordinator). This is the pilot year of this scheme that should ease costs to students joining sports clubs and societies.

Sam appraised Council of the work she has been doing on the StARs (Student Academic Reps) system working with John Ryan, Pro-Vice chancellor (students). Sam has introduced an accreditation scheme to the StARSs system and has also introduced a Student Led Teaching Award.

Saransh opened the floor to questions. There were none.

1. **Approval of Student Trustees**

Paul explained the Trustee system to Student Council, in particular the role that Student Council has in approving or removing Student Trustees. The approval of the Student Trustees is decided by vote and as Saransh is a Student Trustee he was asked to leave the room for any discussion and the vote. At this point Paul took the chair in Saransh’s absence. The vote was put to Council, all voted in favour of approving the Student Trustees, none opposed the approval, none abstained. After the vote Saransh returned to resume role as the Chair.

1. **People and Planet (Duncan)**

Duncan informed the group that a new People and Planet society had been set up with the group looking to arrange a talk from the People and Planet organisation themselves. People and Planet are an external body which currently works with a network of 11 Universities to coordinate campaigning to end world poverty, defend human rights and protect the environment. Lee explained that the society had not actually been created despite the interest generated and the correspondence circulated. Duncan agreed to progress the official creation of the group.

1. **Transport Policy (Lee)**

Lee asked Paul to explain the overall situation to Student Council. Paul explained that with the current start of BUCS fixtures for the season, many of the students who would like to play Basketball are unable to due to the high cost of the membership. These high costs affect all the teams from the first team through to the fourth team due to the high travelling costs the first team incurs when playing BUCS Premiership matches (Premiership matches taking place all over the country as far as Glasgow and Edinburgh.) These travelling costs are split across all the basketball teams rather than the first team solely bearing the financial burden.

With the introduction of the pilot scheme for premier sports funding (see 7. Officers Report) it is planned that the University will cover transport costs for these premier sports teams in 2 years time. In the light of this, the Union Transport Policy for sports teams has been updated by Hannah (Sports and Societies Coordinator) leading up to this change in provision of transport costs. The main amendment made to the Transport Policy is that the Students’ Union will subsidise travel costs for teams playing at BUCS Premiership level to that of 2nd teams competing at BUCS Midlands Conference level.

Paul and Saransh opened the floor to questions. Sam queried how fair it was for the University to take on these substantial costs, and the fairness of this system for all the sports teams. James asked whether the University would just be covering costs for the Basketball first team. Paul answered that the costs of all premier team transport would be covered, however this year the only premier team the University has is Basketball. James noted that Basketball Club fees for all the teams had dropped with Lee and Paul confirming that this was a knock on effect of the University’s pilot scheme. Answering Sam’s question Lee reminded the group to look at the larger picture that with the introduction of the pilot scheme from the University and the subsidised Premier sport travel costs, funds would be freed up to help support other sports teams and students from disadvantaged backgrounds looking to play basketball would be able to participate.

The adoption of the revised Transport Policy was put to the vote and passed with 12 in favour, none opposed and one abstention.

1. **Shoebox Appeal (Sam)**

Sam had discussed promoting a charity Shoebox appeal within the Students’ Union with Rebekah Williams (Students’ Union Communications Coordinator) as this is a charity Sam regularly contributes to. What was proposed was students donating shoeboxes packed with items for disadvantaged children abroad. However Sam was concerned about promoting this within the Students’ Union as the Appeal is coordinated by the Samaritan Church who add leaflets promoting Christianity to each of the boxes. Sam thought it best to put the matter to vote within Student Council as this particular appeal would require boxes arriving with the charity by 12/11/2012.

Luciana asked whether there were any other charities that do a similar appeal that the Students’ Union can contribute to. Sam responded that there were not any other shoebox appeals aimed at Children that she would be comfortable supporting. Kynton queried why Sam would be uncomfortable using another charity. Sam’s answer was that many of the other charities doing a similar appeal did not offer tracking facilities for the boxes donated and were coordinated by smaller, less reliable companies.

The discussion moved to the Christian content of the leaflets added by the Samaritan Church with Kynton stating he would be uncomfortable with any of the religious connotations this Appeal would bring. Consuela and Luciana stated that the countries that the appeal was aimed at (in Eastern Europe such as Romania and Bosnia) were Christian countries. James liked the idea of the appeal but without the addition of the leaflets and Lee did not think it appropriate that the Students’ Union be seen to be affiliated with one particular religion, especially with different religious societies being set up with the Union. Luciana asked whether any other charities could be supported and James asked whether there were any other appeals to support in the run up to Christmas.

A vote was taken whether the Students’ Union should support this appeal. One Council Member voted in favour, nine voted against and three abstained resulting in the motion being defeated. Paul and Duncan suggested supporting another charity and working with the Raise And Give group respectively which Sam agreed with.

1. **Dates for Future Council**

Saransh and Paul asked whether 18:00 on a Monday was the best time for future Council Meetings. Paul said that Monday, Tuesday or Thursday would be ideal, as Wednesdays are difficult due to sporting commitments and Friday not being ideal either. Kynton let the group know that Mark Bonnes was unavailable Mondays with Paul responding that Mark can send delegates in his stead to Council meetings. There was general agreement in the group that 18:00 on Mondays was the best time.

1. **Announcements**

Saransh and Paul let the group know that this agenda item would be regularly included for any announcements of events or information of interest to Council.

Kynton began by informing Student Council of a guest speaker from NUS giving a talk regarding the National Demo in the Yelland Lecture Theatre (EEG089) on 23/10/2012 at 13:00.

Kynton continued telling the group of trials for participation in University Challenge being held at 18:30 on 23/10/2012 also in EEG089 Yelland Lecture.

Duncan told the group of Go Green week, to be held on the 2nd week in February 2013. The Sustainability group is planning to break the World Record for tree hugging by having a total of 900 people simultaneously hug trees across campus (3 people per tree, 300 trees in total.)

A World Festival is being staged by the International Committee between 16/11/2012 and 18/11/2012. On day one there will be a Quiz and International Stands, day two will have a treasure hunt and day three will have a Sports day including dance workshops, held at the Riverside campus. On the evening of the third day there will also be live gigs staged. Luciana has asked that a UK stand be included at the festival.

Eugeni let Student Council know that the “Lost” event planned for November will be postponed until next semester due to organisational issues. Eugeni stated that volunteering hours can be accrued for V records by helping out with this event.

Sergio informed Council that the International Committee is working to promote the Rasmus student exchange programme. If any students have queries they should contact the International Committee.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

19th November 2012 at 18:00

**Meeting Closed** 19:00