

Minutes:**[Unconfirmed]****Student Council**

Meeting 2 of the academic year 2021-22

Date / Time: 08/02/2022 – 17:53 – 18:40

Location: MS Teams

Facilitator: Joanna Dine-Hart (JDH)

Attendees:

Attendee Name	Role of Attendee
Joanna Dine-Hart (JDH)	Union Development Officer
Aashni Sawjani (AS)	Student Opportunities and Engagement Officer
Benjamin Smith (BS)	Welfare Executive
Nyashadzashe Nguwo (NN)	Academic Executive
Puja Subramanian (PS)	Equality & Diversity Executive
Amir Iqbal (AI)	Open Zone Member
Sofia Costa Marques (SCM)	Academic Zone Member
Toby Smith (TS)	Academic Zone Member
Kay Walker (KY)	Welfare Zone Member
Aaliyah Amin Khan (AK)	Academic Zone Member
Emmanuela Bediako (EB)	Open Zone Member
Meera Dasani (MD)	Academic Zone Member
Belle Willis (BW)	Academic Zone Member
Maariya Ahmed (MA)	Opportunities Zone Member
Bola Akinrolabu (BA)	Opportunities Zone Member
Stephanie Glazebrook (SG)	Academic Zone Member
Feyisayo Promise Ibiunmoye (FPI)	Open Zone Member
Catherine Messinger (CM)	Student Voice Manager
Alex Scown (AS)	Student Voice Coordinator
Myra Kiama (MK)	Academic Representation Coordinator

1. Introduction and Apologies for Absence

JDH Welcomed everyone to the Student Council Meeting.
Proposed skipping formal introductions due to Zone Committee Meetings taking place. No Objections

Apologies were received from Anna Maria Sikora, Jyoti Bhagwanji, Izzy Walden, Navi Kaur and Shamsia Qadir.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (02/12/2021) were confirmed by those present.

3. Matters Arising:

CM No matters arising from the minutes of the last Student Council Meeting.

4. Notification for any other business (AOB)

JDH No notification for AOB.

Confirmed that due to admin error, the Liberation Officers were not invited to both the Student Council Meeting nor the Equality & Diversity Meeting.

5. Picking a Chair

JDH Asked council if they would like to elect a new Chair or continue with current system with Executives facilitating the meeting.

AI Expressed concern that having an Executive chair the meetings may prevent students from expressing their opinions fairly.

SCM Content to continue with current system.

JDH Created a poll on MS teams to decide on the agenda matter of who would chair future meetings. Options were:

- 'Student Member'
- 'Executive Officer'
- 'RON'

AS Asked if Executives could vote on the subject matter. CM acknowledged executive's role in council but asked all Executives to withstand from poll. No disagreements.

Final Tally was:

- 4 Votes for 'Student Member'
- 3 Votes for 'Executive Officers'
- 0 Votes for 'RON'

ACTION 1

Agreed to collectively vote on the next chair for all future Student Council Meetings of the Academic Year.

JDH Asked if any of the council members would like to run for position of Chair. AI, SCM and TS put themselves forward. JDH asked that all candidates have 1 minute to present their case. All candidates did so.

Second anonymous poll created following candidates' pitches to vote in new Chair. AS asked if Executives could vote on this poll. CM confirmed they could.

BS Suggested moving on to next agenda topic due to time management. CM agreed but also made suggestion to email all absentees with ability to vote due to admin error resulting in the Liberation Officers from not being present. AS took names of those present that have voted as well as members that have no attended.

ACTION 2

AS and CM will send emails to absentees to allow them to vote on the three

candidates for the position of Chair.

6. Executive Update

Updates from each of the Executive Officers were delivered to council members.

- BS Welfare champions are in place and has helped host various successful events (Hot Chocolate Hampers and Blue Mondays were given as examples). Currently working on consent training for domestic violence. Discussed success of Holocaust Memorial Day and QA project hosted with other executives.
- JDH Before providing update, stressed importance of council members scrutinising the executives.
Noted the Holocaust Memorial Day and the successful turnout. Discussed work with BS on conversion therapy following Government Consultation. Ensured that students' and staffs' voices were heard. Future goals are planning events for International Woman's Day and the rest of March.
- AS Focusing on mental health and wellbeing training for committee members. Got course representatives involved with CM's help. Launched Society of the Month successfully.
- PS Current projects focus on employability of students, improving support for International Students. Working with LGBTQ+ students for mentoring programme in collaboration with DMU and Georgia University. Hosted first session which was successful and will focus on how to improve for future programmes.
Future projects are increasing gender pronoun awareness and Black History celebrations throughout the year. Unfortunately, PS was no able to discuss these matters during Zone Committee members due to admin error preventing Liberation Officers from attending. Mentioned it will be addressed during next Council Meeting.
- NN Worked with BS and JDH on International Welcome Week. Helped host social events at the union (mentioned Karaoke and Games Night). There is catching up to do as he has held the position for 3 months. Future projects involve making students be more aware of what the SU is. Is a student voice for Education 2030 and the new VLE discussions.

7. Zone Updates

Confirmed that no outstanding issues from Zone Meetings that needed to be discussed presently.

8. Trustee Board Update

- JDH Provided clarification on what the Trustee Board is, new members and members that have left since last Student Council. JDH expressed opportunity to apply as a member of the Trustee Board was available for all Council Members.

Mentioned DSU's new CEO Sarah Bradley, her background and her responsibilities.

9. NUS

- BS Asked council members if they were aware of NUS strikes. Limited recognition for attendees. BS clarified what NUS is and the planned strike (02/03/2022) in London. Provided reason for strike
- AI Asked for BS to explain in more detail what the strikes are. BS responded with a more detailed explanation. AI was happy with it but questioned reasoning and date of the strike.
- SCM agreed with AI over date and asked Executives if students would be involved. JDH asked if changing the day from a Wednesday would increase student participation. Discussion was held and executives acknowledged that feedback can be provided to NUS to improve future strikes.
- MK Provided more detailed analysis of strike to council members that were still unsure. Acknowledged students concerns on issues such as funding and travel to participate in strike.

10. Volunteering Policy

- AS Explained volunteering policy to council members. Confirmation that not all members had read the document sent ahead of council. AS asked members if the new Volunteering Policy could be passed.
- Council Members approved new Volunteering Policy

11. Function Rooms

- JDH Current function rooms are empty. Asked if council members wanted this to change to be more active.
- AI Referred to function rooms being open before COVID and suggested keeping rooms open and having activities/equipment there for students to use.
- AS Said that any other suggestions that council members think of can be sent to Voice Team or Executives directly to be picked up and implemented at a later time.

12. A.O.B. / OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Asked all council members to provide feedback for new style for Zone and Council Meetings.
- KW Made note of limited attendees for Welfare Zone Meeting. Suggested it may be worth hosting them on different days.
- Clarification was made when and how executives could be contacted.
- Thanks was given to attendees for Zone and Student Council Meetings.