

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 01/12/2015

De Montfort Students' Union

The Big Meet

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Students' Union

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 01 December 2015 17:00

Chairing the meeting: Amie Chapman (AC) Adam Redfern (AR) Daniel Winney (DW) Keira Rounsley (KR)

Officers Present: Amie Chapman –AC (Deputy President Education), Adam Redfern – AR (Vice President Media and Communications) Daniel Winney – DW (Vice President Student Activities) Keira Rounsley-KR (Vice President Welfare and Community)

Part time reps: International Students' Rep, Women's representative, Mature Students' Rep, LGBTQ+ rep,

Student Trustees: Ahtesham Mahmood (AM) Wendy Rainbow (WR)

Students' Union Staff Present: Max Mcloughlin MM (Chief Executive Officer), Paula Heneghan PH (Accountant), Colina Wright CW (Membership Services Manager), Adele Clarke AC (Marketing and Communications Manager), Elgan Hughes EH (Student Voice Manager), Samuel Hilton SH (Student Engagement Coordinator), Jonathan Whitney JW (Media and Marketing Coordinator), Jake Betts JB (Sports Development Coordinator).

Students represent: 170 students present

Apologies: Societies and Sports teams apologies:

Psychology, Bhangra, Game Society, Theatre, Fencing, Christian Union, Women's Basketball, Acapella, Engineers without Borders, Fine Arts, Contemporary health, Giving Voice Society, Leadership International, Salsa, Street Law, Rowing, Midwifery, Jiu Jitsu, Ahlulbayt Islamic Society, Midwifery, Vegetarian and Vegan, Archery, Student Choir, LPSA, Peace for Palestine, Hindu, Cocktail, Placement power, Demon Parkour, Nigerian Students', DMU Bollywood Dance Committee, Korean Culture, Volleyball, Harry Potter, LPSA, Golf, Music, Hellenic Cypriot, African Dance, Vegan & Vegetarian, Airsoft, Hellenic Cypriot Society, Adventists students, DMU fit, Wire, Psychology

Course Rep apologies:

Chloe Cobham, Arjun Dayanandan, Vivian Nwagboso, Aleesha Patel, Emma Egan, Saffa Can, Katney Amponsah, David Smith, Nathan Beeby, Saffa Can, Katney Amponsah, David Smith, Nathan Beeby Yahya Amodo, Ellen French, Gabriele Baltrusyte, Zainab Ali, Amelia Ferguson, Anna Huzar, Rebecca Griffith, Peter McNulty, Yatin Sodha, Joanna Murray, James Stevens, Emma Holmes, Richa Singhal, Nichola Ennis, Eliot Bates, Hemani Lala, Kayleigh Simmonds,

Serina Dom, Wajiha Syed, Emilia Djiapouras, Jamie-Lee Hunt, Bethany Meadows, David Hazell, Josh Measuria, Hanh Pham, Gemma Plant, Valentina Antunes, Hao Phan, Charlotte Burrows, Demetra Onoufriou, Emma Knights, Retsepile Lepheane, Abdul Walilay, Isabelle Aris, Tanzila Patel, Abeer Alsaiani, Lindsay Maclaren, Fahim Razmandeh, Connor Watson, Paul Finney, Ben Crew, Subash Murugan, Matthew Bedford, David Cooper, Shannon Jinks, Fatima Hafeji, Sanjana Ramanuj, Lauren Raybould, Lauren Foster, Kathryn Lamb, Simran Bajaj, Keiran Fairhurst, Polly Cottington, Sayema Hannan, Liam Cotterill, Javier Rodriguez Reyna, Jacqueline Douglass, Rubi Islam, Reema Valand, Robert Mcentee, Sharon Ncube, William Underwood, Nabila Lakhi, Yahia Hussain, Catherine Mare, Andrew Lally, Laura Dickinson, Rahil Pabari, Sweta Patel, Kim Blower, Bethany Payne, Lauren Robbins, Zoe Norbury, Jess Breame, Djenabou Diallo, Alice Tuppen, Brandon Oliver, Shukri Gurhan, Payge Temple, Georgina Peck, Nathanaelle Dzawe, Timothy Collins, Nyashadzamwari Chifodya, Abbey Rich, Wilhemina Gilbertson-Davis, Elleni Djiapouras, Fariyal Sodha, Ella McGill, Annointin Bossman, Ojas Pancholy, Leanne Billington, Sana Ahmed, Harjot Dhami,

Part time Rep apologies

Disabled Students' Rep: Louise Cunliffe

1. Welcome and Registration

AC opened and introduced the Big Meet, the Students' Union Annual General Meeting (AGM) and asked students to register by texting DEMONTFORT to Polleverywhere system the electronic voting system that will be used throughout the Big Meet.

A video produced by Demon TV about the SU's Christmas campaign #DSUFestive10 was played and was received well by the room.

A welcome video was played explaining the importance of the Big Meet and the functions of an AGM.

2. Apologies

KR read out a statement about safe space and importance of respect.

AC read a statement relating to the suspense on the Students' Union President.

"An investigation is currently taking place regarding the conduct of De Montfort Students' Union President, Adil Waraich.

In line with the Students' Union's policies and procedures he has been suspended from his presidential duties whilst the investigation is carried out. It is important that this allegation is investigated thoroughly to maintain the integrity of the organisation and to uphold the role of Students' Union President.

During this time the other executive officers are taking on the role and responsibilities. It would be inappropriate to comment further until the investigation is concluded.”

AC explained that the Officers were present in their role as trustees, and went through the apologies received for the meeting.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

AR asked the meeting to ratify the minutes from the previous meeting. He recapped the progress on last year’s actions. The outstanding action with regards to the universities finances was raised. The Pro Vice Chancellor of Teaching and Learning attended the representation conference on the 5th November 2015, where the issue around transparency and finance was raised. AC explained that the Students’ Union was inviting a member of the University to explain the Universities finances at the next council.

Action: The Students’ Union to invite a member of University staff to the next council

4. Ten Questions

Using the Polleverywhere software the attendees of the Big Meet were invited to vote and answer questions by the Trustees of the Students’ Union.

Question One: Do you feel the Students Union Represents you?

- 75 said Yes
- 16 said No
- 19 said Maybe

DW asked if students had any further comments relating to Question one. Students expressed the view that council offered a good platform, and that students supported each other. Other comments thanked the Students’ Union for relevant campaigns like this Girl Can and Stamp Out Stigma.

Question Two: True or False – 60% of students think they are members of the Students’ Union?

- 84 said that the statement was true
- 51 said it was false

AC explained that Question two was false, and only 45% of students were aware that they were members of the Students’ Union.

Question 3: Have you heard of #DSUrevamp?

- 95 students had heard of #DSUrevamp
- 45 had not

No questions or comments were made.

Question Four: Does your course meet your expectations?

The answer to question four was free text comments. Here are a snapshot of the comments.

- “No structure in the course”
- “Spread out deadlines”
- “It could be better in terms of interactions between students and lecturers”
- “Personal tutors have no idea what they are doing to help me!!!”
- “no, one side of my joint honours is a serious let down.”
- “NO STRUCTURE IN THE COURSE”
- “It exceeded my expectations.”
- “It was a good course but the DSU made it brilliant ;)”
- “Yes, but it's complicated sometimes”
- “Yes for me, however more help needed in IT”
- “Yes, as plenty of labs and lectures, however timetabling is all over the place.”

DW asked for comments and a student said that students who were on joint honours had real problems, especially if the honours crossed different schools, as the schools did not seem to talk to each other.

Question Five: Do you know who your personal tutor is?

- 109 said yes
- 18 said no

Students from Law, Engineering and Fine art expressed that they didn't know who their personal Tutor are.

Action: Students' Union to raise the issues about the communication and accessibility of personal tutors to the university and the Personal Tutoring Working Group (PTWG).

Question Six: Does the university provide enough welfare services?

- 51 students said yes
- 71 students said no

KR spoke about the universities counselling services and their location, and how the Students' Union is working in partnership with charities to hold mental health drop in sessions as the counselling sessions are fully booked.

Question Seven: Do you feel like your course uses technology to support your learning?

- 77 said yes
- 52 said no

AC asked students if they had any comments; One English and Creative writing student said that materials were not put on blackboard. Another (Engineering) student said that they wanted a greater use of technology than Blackboard. A Maths student requested that there wasn't enough computers and software for all the students on the course. DW asked students if they would like lecturers to be recorded and put online, the majority of people in the room said they would.

Action: Students' Union to raise and ask these questions to the Pro Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching, and feedback to the students.

Question Eight: Do you know who the Students' Union executives are?

- 44 students said that they did and that they could name the post names
- 45 said yes but did not know the names of the posts
- 22 said no

The executive officers introduced themselves and their roles. No questions or comments were made.

Question Nine: How many part-time Liberation Representatives does the SU have?

- 17 students answered 0
- 13 students answered 1-3
- 38 students answered 4-6
- 21 students answered 7-9
- 11 students answered 10-12
- 14 students answered over 13

33% of students correctly answered the question, and the part time liberation representatives introduced themselves.

Question Ten: Do you know what a Students' Union Trustee does?

- 20 said yes
- 103 said no

KR explained the role of trustees, and moved onto the next agenda item which was about the trustees.

5. Trustees

The role of the trustees were explained and grouped into four categories; executive, student, alumni, and external trustees. KR explained that the roles of the Alumni trustees were currently vacant and the Big Meet had received apologies from the external trustees and two of the student trustees. There were two student trustees present. The student trustees AM and WR introduced themselves.

A student asked how you could become a student trustee. The Student Voice Manager EH explained the process. Another student asked how long trustees were in post for, and was told that the post lasted three years.

6. Policies

KR explained that the Students' Union policies are an important way of setting the direction of the Students' Union. Policies are ideas submitted from any De Montfort Students' Union Member and are discussed and decided on by students at a democratic meeting. The democratic meetings that we hold at DSU are Education Council and Activities Council these are open to all students.

KR explained that the Students' Unions policy lasted three years, and showed the meeting a list of current policy and a list of the policy that had lapsed since the last big meet. There were no questions.

7. Annual Accounts 2014-2015

A video was played explaining the financial plans of the Students' Union, DW asked for any questions. A student asked where their tuition fees were being spent. DW explained that the Students' Union only received one percent of students' tuition fees and the rest was spent by the University. The student challenged this, believing this not to be the case. The students further requested the university to clarify where their fees are being spent.

A student asked how much of the Student's Union's funding came from the University. DW explained that it was around 63%. DW explained that the Students' Union had spent £18,000 on buying a mini bus.

8. Auditors

The meeting were informed of the Students' Unions auditors, and the meeting was asked to make note of the departmental reports that were given out during registration.

9. Affiliations

The meeting received the affiliations of the Students' Union, there was no questions or comments.

10. Budgets for 2015-2016

KR introduced and played the video explaining the budgets for the Students' Union plan for 2015-2016. A student asked where students would go for nights out during the revamp. They were informed that alternative provision would be provided.

11. Vision, Mission and Values

DW and AR asked the attendees of the big meet to write down one thought about the Students' Union and the revamp and throw them to the front of the room. This information would be used by the students' Union to help inform the strategic plan and the revamp.

DW and AR introduced the importance of the Vision, mission and Values for the Students' Union. Using the Polleverywhere electronic voting system, students were asked to choice between a series of vision statements, mission, and values for the Students' Union.

Vision:

- An exceptional student experience: 27 (30%)
- Making student life exceptional: 25 (28%)
- Creating your home away from home: 20 (22%)
- No ordinary student experience: 18 (20%)

In a close poll the students preferred the Vision to be; An exceptional student experience

Mission:

- A student experience with no limits and Students' Union with no fear: 32 (33%)
- De Montfort Students' Union is student-led and student-focused. We represent, support and inspire our members throughout their student journey: 17 (18%)
- We represent, support and inspire our members to love their time at University: 15 (16%)
- De Montfort Students' Union is student-led and student-focused. We represent, inspire and involve our students to enhance their university experience: 32 (33%)

In a dead heat the students voted that they equally preferred the mission to be; a student experience with no limits and Students' Union with no fear, or De Montfort Students' Union is student-led and student-focused. We represent, inspire and involve our students to enhance their university experience.

Values:

- We will..., inspire you, support you, represent you, listen to you, and act with and for you 66 (71%)
- Family, Equality, Cool, Development, and Excellence 8 (9%)
- Community, Democracy, Fun, Growth, and Quality 12 (13%)
- Ambition, Commitment, Inspiration 7 (8%)

In a large majority the students identified that they preferred the values of the Students' Union to be We will..., inspire you, support you, represent you, listen to you, and act with and for you.

Action: The data from the Vision, Mission and Values exercise to be taking to the trustee board for discussion on the new strategic plan going forward, and to be communicated back to students.

12. **Announcements and close of Meeting.**

DW went through the announcements of the key meetings of the Students' Union and the notice was given of the Students' Union Leadership Elections 2016 – 2017.

AC announced that a meeting is being held with the Vice Chancellor (VC) on the Wednesday 2nd December and asked students to make comments to her personally or use the Polleverywhere software to pose any questions to the VC.

The meeting was closed.