



UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN STUDENTS' UNION

Town Hall meeting – Monday 10th February, 4-6pm, The Platform

Present: Talia Adams, Hannah Barr, Calvin Bissitt, Samantha Brinded, Emily Dale, Rhys Davies, Seth Goddard, Chandani Holliday, Bailey Marchant, Harry Margaron, Lauren Martin, James Morrison, Kiera Neethling, Oliver Norwood-Grundy, Callum Roper, Joel Tait, Conner Wain, Kathryn Wilson and Willow Woodmin.

Also Present: James Brooks (SU Chief Executive), Hannah Coleman (Deputy Chief Executive), Jenny Barnes (Head of Student Voice & Insight, Bethany Allen (Student Voice Manager), Liz Smy (Representation & Governance Coordinator) and Beki Doig (Digital Communications Coordinator)

Student Leaders: Cassie Coakley (President), Mohit Bulchandani (Vice President International), Georgia Petts (Vice President Education) and Abi Brown (Vice President Activities).

1. Introduction from the President

Following Lincoln SU leaving NUS, this meeting forms part of the consultation of what to do with the funds that were set aside for affiliation fees. NUS affiliation fees are approximately £23,000 for rest of this year, approximately £60,000 for next year. The SU wants to ensure transparency about the amount of money referred to. Students are involved at every step of this decision, including this meeting, volunteer Officers and Student Trustees on the Board.

Slido explanation was given for members that have not used this before.

<Break out group discussion>

More disabled access for SU venues. Seth – the Barge has no disabled access. For an SU venue specifically, this is not a good image for us to have. The Swan has limited disabled access, you cannot get to the first floor, and space is used a lot for society events. Pool

tables block part of the access on the non- step entrance side. Is there a lift for upper Tower Bar/Platform? Yes, there is a lift by the Barn door behind reception, you should always be able to access Platform when it is open.

Communal area/green space – (Harry Margaron) medical school building takes up a lot of green space on campus. Will there be green space after the medical school building is built? Yes, half of the space that is currently cut out for the building site, gardens on rooftops too. Garden of reflection, current plans look very small. (Talia Adams) Making people more aware of current green spaces or communal spaces, they are there but not well publicised. Better utilisation of what already exists. (Cassie) Plants – would students volunteer to look after these? Consensus in room – unsure.

24-hour mental health support – this is a big topic. (Willow Woodmin) Nightline could be implemented. Some other Union's have this service. Overnight support for out of office hours, students cannot plan when they might need support, during office hours. Do people want more face to face or phone support? All possibilities should be explored as some students prefer different methods. (Conner Wain) Face to face is not for everyone, but some prefer this. More groups sessions available too, some people prefer group support as one on one can be a bit much. Nightline can be run by volunteers; the money would fund training. Would students prefer peers or staff? As long as they all had the same training, it wouldn't/shouldn't really matter. Needs are different for each person. Is this service run by an NHS mental Health doctor? Some people don't want this linked to them, on their health record. This is a concern with the current system in Wellbeing.

Accessibility and Para-Sports

Everyone can get involved in para sport too, it's for any student. (Abi Brown) This is already a plan for the SU. This could be incorporated with social sport, so it is a one-off opportunity too, with less commitment than competitive leagues.

Plastic Free Shop

Zero waste reduce waste and single use plastics.

Food bank for students struggling – was pointed out that this already exists in the SU Advice Centre.

All Student Members meetings – donate the pizzas to a shelter or the money to a food bank. Students are in a privileged position; we should share this. Students who attend ASMs would attend, pizza or not.

Stress relieving events – things to make people smile around deadlines.

Snacks available. Dogs on campus. Film screenings. Do we want something to take your mind of it temporarily, or longer-term mechanisms such as workshops on how to deal with stress? A mix of both.

(Conner Wain) 'Shh' events – quiet coffee shop atmosphere, time to talk to people you know or strangers that are there to make you laugh and talk positively.

Buddying schemes can be useful too.

2. Other comments from Slido

- Solar Panels on the Engine Shed
- Open outdoor community space - not an alcohol driven venue/space
- Stress relieving events like movie screenings- things to make people smile around stressful deadline periods
- Less spent on bribing students with pizzas. Promote environmental considerations. Stop using glitter, balloons and confetti cannons - there's only one planet!
- SU mental health helpline
- Democratic Oversight for the SU leadership
- Multi-cultural fayre to bring together and celebrate all the different cultures within the Uni together.
- Pop-up study spaces in exam season
- More easily accessible access to resources, for when smaller teams go to national events
- Much less promotion of SU venues and a plastic duck! More alcohol-free events in places that do NOT sell alcohol #more inclusive for international students
- SU Mini Buses
- Full time Environment Staff member
- More information and planning for international events/holidays – pre-book and create a calendar
- Extra Staffing At SU Venues
 - More consistent discounts in SU venues
 - Permanent Housing Officer.
 - A bigger/more consistent discount for drinks in the unions bars
 - Similarly, smaller teams, compared to say Rugby or Football teams, found it really difficult to access funds for national events.
 - Bring Secret DJ back for Tower Bar
 - A students' Union coffee shop on campus
 - A exam stress/deadline stress event around April/may
 - More comprehensive funding for sports and societies

- put Tower Bar on a big turntable so that it can spin
- Increase in Postgrad/International events, specifically around exam season
- More plug sockets in su venues
- Allow accessible areas we do have to be 24/7 access
- Study coffee shop/ re fillable coffee
- A coffee shop on Riseholme.
- A study space with the calm atmosphere of 3rd floor library - relaxing, quiet, exposed oak beams (maybe a warm fire?) 😊
- Chill zone for Summer
- 23k worth of lottery tickets #infinitemoney
- Subsidise SU Food Costs
- Show solidarity with the worldwide student community. Support those under unjust oppression. Promote freedom of speech. Increase democracy. Allow open debate!
- mental health support groups - alternative to the Wellbeing Centre
- From September the full amount on money could be shared out between the different Sab roles & spent within their area so it reaches as many students as possible
- Re-join the NUS
- Bike park lock things with planters
- prices at tower bar and the swan going down
- Available funds for non-BUCX sports teams.
- Up the game from the Barge. Battleship?
- A food store on campus that promotes local farmers and businesses - could implement the plastic free shop



3. Close of meeting