UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN STUDENTS' UNION

All Student Members meeting - Monday 16th October 2017, 6pm, INB0114

Present:

Chair: Grace Corn

Key
✓ = Attended
NF = Position not filled
A = Apologises sent to Chair
× = Did not attend or send apologises

Volunteer Members

	16th Oct			
College of Arts Officer – Glen Allison	✓			
College of Science Officer – James Bayliss	✓			
College of Social Sciences Officer – Beatriz De Arcos Marin	✓			
Lincoln International Business School Officer- Isaac Jackson	×			
Societies Officer – Natalie Magnuszewski	×			
Sports Officer – Cassie Coakley	×			
Disabled Students Officer – Tillisha Mortimer	×			
LGBT Students Officer – Matthew Gilbert	✓			
Mature Students Officer – Heather Sunderland	×			
Postgraduate Taught Officer – NF	NF			
Postgraduate Research Officer – NF	NF			
Women's Students Officer- Michaela Ormrod	✓			
Black Asian and Minority Ethnicity Officer – Dominiquè Robinson	×			
Community Officer – Benjamin Leer	✓			
Raising and Giving Officer – Emma Ord	✓			

School Representatives

	16th Oct			
Architecture– Molly Harper	✓			
Design – NF	NF			
Accounting, Finance & Economics – Joshua Reade	✓			
Chemistry – Arden Mower	✓			
Computer Science – Alex Ford	✓			
Engineering – Alex Dyson	×			
English and Journalism – Caitlin Holloway	✓			
Film and Media – Charlotte Buono	✓			

Fine and Performing Arts – Jessica Hickey	×			
Geography – Bartholomew Hill	×			
Health and Social Care – Michelle Wiggins	A			
History and Heritage – NF	NF			
Law – Chloe Rollings	✓			
Life Science – Emily Phynn	✓			
Marketing- Alex Bentley	✓			
Mathematics and Physics – Grace Nichols-Singh				
Pharmacy – Claire Hodge	A			
People & Organisations – Elouise Blanchflower	×			
Psychology – Nial Francis	✓			
Social and Political Science – Charlotte Stone	✓			
Sport and Exercise Science – Jack Dos Reis Silva	✓			
Strategy & Enterprise – Harry Levey	×			
Tourism - NF	NF			

Also Present: James Brooks (SU CEO), Jenny Barnes (Student Voice & Impact Manager, Clerk to Council), Liz Smy (Student Voice Assistant, Minute taking).
Student Leaders: Kudzai Muzangaza, Tommy George, Luke Exton, Sophia Liu, Connor Delany.

Other student members in attendance:
George Reed, Christopher Day, Faye Elliott, Kate Rose-Long, Connor Roberts, Lewis Wright, Rhianne-ebony Sterling-Morris, Jessica Dagley, Ondrej Hoberla, Philip Markall, Sean Lane, Lewis Coupe, James Peat, Jane Harris, Jasmin Woodward, Grace Morgan, Jacob Vause, William Smith, Miles Martin, Daniel Dixon, Harry Lack, Emily Sinkinson, Eleanor Krawczyk, Alanna Plaats, Christian Cowdell, Matthew Fyson, Samuel Bryon, Emma Blackburn, Eleanor Bainbridge, Amy Lewis, Nicole Higgins, Rebecca Marrows, Adam Charles, Michael Barton, Joshua Wilson, Kyle Cross, Nathan Harris, Natasha Chapman, Bradley Allsop, Hannah Barr, Haroldas Poderskis, Kirt Nicholls, Liam O'Dell, Connor Creaghan, Louis Hunt-Cole, Katie Maloney, Andrew King, Callum Bailey, Joseph Hackett, Joseph Pearce, Matthew Smith, Yimin Wang, Rebecca Coupland, Rafe Bilbe, Qin Yu, Jacob Bradbury, Mary Procter, Filip Grzejszczyk, Ibraheem Ali, Na Bian, Zhuojun Huang, Lauren Chamberlain-Jones, Helen Ashby.

Apologies for absence:

1. **Introduction from the Chair**

2. **Minutes of Previous All Student Members' Meeting**

   Minutes of previous meeting *approved by assent*

3. **Matters and actions arising**

- Freedom of speech motion went to the trustees from the last ASM.

Kudzai reported that the policy was nullified by trustees. A new proposal will be proposed today.

- NSS Policy was nullified.

- Regarding the disciplinary procedure, if you have any suggestions for amendments to the Code of Conduct, please contact a student leader.

- Election of deputy chair. Jacob Bradbury – elected by assent.

4. Motions

4.1 Freedom of Speech– Proposer: Bradley Allsop

- Speech For: In the past, students felt their comments were not fully allowed to be open and disagree with the union publically, or they would face disciplinary action. Students should be allowed to speak freely, even if this is in criticism of the Students' Union.

No questions.
No speech against.
No Abstention speech.
Motion passes by assent.

4.2 Higher Education Fees – Proposer: Bradley Allsop

- Speech For: Tuition fees are detrimental as £1000 interest accrued every year. As a union we should be opposed to them and actively fight against raising them as a whole, not just rises.

Questions:

- Glen Allison – would this not devalue a degree as everyone would have one? What would be the benefit to students for employment?
  Response: We should see education as a right. By not making it free it does the opposite.

- Kyle Cross – How does it help with Universities having to compete to keep students?
- Response: Universities will have to run more efficiently by cutting costs.

- Ibraheem Ali – Tuition fees should be abolished, but would lowering them not be a better starting point?
- Response: It's a process of negotiation, which we should start here and maybe work down by reducing them in the meantime.

- Emma Ord – inflation causes fee rises as with another other cost of living– wouldn't we lose services if fees were reduced as fees contribute to running costs?
- Response: There are many other places the money could be cut from before essential services become vulnerable.

No speech against
No speech to abstain.
Motion passes by assent.

4.3 Bye-Law Amendments/Articles of Association– Proposer: Kudzai Muzangaza

- Democracy review proposals. Giving students a better idea of how they can be involved as well as how they can hold officers to account.

- ASMs held when necessary rather than monthly. Many meetings last year were not quorate. By reducing frequency, topical issues will bring people along and meetings are more likely to be quorate.

- Rename terms so that they are more accessible to students, to reduce confusion.

- Quoracy of ASM's will be increased – NSS motion was voted on by only 82 students as the ASM was quorate. Any items discussed at a meeting will be sent to referendum if under 50 students attend. If there are 150 in attendance, we will be able to vote to pass policy.

- NUS referendum will be held every 2 years so we can review and reassess.

- 150 votes as an SUggestion for bye law amendments

- SUggestions – students can now propose petitions.

- Fast tracking – by-passes voting – Student Leaders are mandated to act. These will mainly be restricted to SU SUggestions and will need full approval from all Exec members.

- Reports – last year they were put on the website to read and vote. This year – Executive summary will be published with links to full reports. Volunteer officer reports will be approved by Exec. This will ensure everyone is held to account in some way, and it will allow for the recognition they deserve.

- Delegates from relevant groups for conferences will be open to all students in that group.

- Time analysis added to Exec agenda to hold Student Leaders to account between each other.

- Sabbatical Officers terminology changed to Student Leaders to avoid confusion between two terms for the same roles.

- Student Leaders' Power to co-opt in the event of an unsuccessful election. Brings people in to post following non quorate votes.

- Petitions- can be unanimous decision of Exec, or an ASM. Policy details how long they will be open for.

Questions:

- Liam O'Dell: Current situation – 50 is quoracy, there is a new proposal to increase to 150. Will this not harm democracy as we failed to reach 50 much last year?
  Response: 0.003% is 50 students. 150 is just shy of 1% so would be more fair.

- Natasha Chapman – Reducing frequency would remove them as they would only be held in extreme circumstances.
  Response: Topics that students want to discuss will lead to more productive ASMs, and more students attending. This is a reduced time commitment but still allows students the chance to be involved in decisions that affect them.

- Hannah Barr – SUggestions need 150 votes, how long would they be open for?
  Response: They would be open for a month. Petitions are based on the decision of exec and the proposer of petition.

- Kyle Cross – How are you going to ensure you get enough people to reach quoracy?
  Response: We will actively campaign to get people to attend. If not, the quoracy of 50 will still allow discussion but will lead to a referendum.

- Matthew Fyson – How much notice will be given for an ASM?
  Response: Notice is currently at least 5 working days, this will not change.

- Callum Bailey – NUS Referendum takes place every two years. When will it be?
  Response: Either the beginning or the end of the academic year. It would be the decision of the Executive Committee.

- Emma Ord – Will ASM always be during teaching hours?
  Response: Timing is difficult. Day time means it could be during lectures. Evenings means student parents cannot attend.

- Hannah Barr – changing names- how will this be explained to students? They might think it is a new process.
  Response: The process will be the same, just named differently. President will promote this through SU website.

Speech against – Bradley Allsop

- Somethings agreed with. Some sensible ideas.

- No policy will be passed if quoracy is raised to 150. If we promote the ASMs, we will get people here, but today is only 85 and we did promote this meeting.

- There are issues with the Volunteer Officer reports – video reports could work so give this a go before removing the chance for the students that voted for people to hold them to account. This will destroy democracy at Lincoln.

  Questions:

- Callum Bailey – We are a minority, below 1% of the student population, so we shouldn't be making the decision as such a small number.
  Response: An elected representative council may be better. All Student Members meetings are always going to be a minority. If we are a minority, we shouldn't be voting today at all.

- Rebecca Coupland - If it was an issue students want to discuss, they will attend.
  Response: We still did not hit 150 today. There is value in monthly meetings, particularly for the group of students that are engaged.

- Katie Maloney – some promotion for this meeting – if there is feedback from today, we could always do more to reach quoracy.
  Response: 150 students is almost double what we have in the room. There is a limit to how much promotion we can do.

- Louis Hunt Cole – there is no upper limit of promotion. There are many more students at this University. The Student leaders are great and are talking to students to get them to attend. There should be at least 1% here to be able to vote.
  Response: – we tried last year. We are risking not being able to pass any policy all year.

- Charlotte Buono – if you are one of the representatives –that is only one person, if all Reps followed on from Student Leaders, more people would be encouraging people to attend, so more people would be approached to attend. Timing of meetings is also a factor, it is difficult.

Response: Let's try promoting this year, with this number, before we increase it.

Speech to abstain - James Peat

- If we abstain, we can revisit it later on in the year. If you cannot settle on one side of the argument, this is the best option. I would like to see proof that 150 students can attend before we make this he amount needed. I have concerns that we wouldn't make it to this number. Monthly is too much for most people but ad hoc is not sufficient – some topics will be more interesting than others. Maybe divide this in to a few points for next time.

Questions

- Callum Bailey- if you abstain – does it affect the voting. If we hit the majority it would not pass.
  Response: If enough people abstain, more than half, it will be brought back to another meeting.

- Sam Bryon – Many first years didn't know this existed – only as a Course Rep. There is more than can be done to promote. Abstaining is not the right way to vote.

- Katie Maloney- Sport Reps should be doing more, share it with house mates.
  Response: it is difficult, not always a topic that people want. Not everyone will bring a friend with them.

- Luke Exton- Point of information – For activities, there has been a lot of promotional material going out. There are 600 sport/societies members, so this would be a good group to more directly target.

- Kudz – Point of information – proposal does state that we can still discuss at 50 people, the goes to referendum, this way more students can be involved. We do not want static democracy processes. If we do not pass this, to be able to action it, we would have to wait until April and the next Student Leader team. Changes allow more students to be involved. This review would never be implemented.

- Tommy – we can do more to promote. Word of mouth and also next time you will know about this. Outreach will spread combining all of our networks.

- Louis Hunt Cole - Can we withdraw the 150 item, but keep other things to make a vote?
  Response from Chair – this is not possible. We have to vote on the paper as a whole.

Conclusion – the 150 quoracy level is clearly a contentious issue, this will set a precedent for how the SU will move forward, it would be a shame to allow us to move forward allowing only 50 people to make decisions for all. This wold be a better platform to represent students.

Chair comment: This cannot be amended – is not a motion, but a set of bye law amendments. See 2.2.6 Motions or Business.

Vote:
For 57
Against 17
To Abstain 8

Motion passes.

4.4 'No Platform' discussion – Leader: Kudzai Muzangaza

- This is not a motion proposal, but rather a discussion to get an idea of the general consensus on having a No Platform policy.

- The President invited the Chief Executive, as the legal representative to clarify the meaning and purpose of such a policy - An elected officer cannot debate with anyone listed in the policy. Usually concerns highly political topics or people with known for having radical political ideas. SUs have tried to get legal clarification on the legality of such policies, and the advice suggests that they do breach freedom of speech. NUS have gone against this and are allowing these policies. The positions of trustees at this stage is unknown. Strictly speaking they are illegal.

- Ibraheem Ali – Against No Platform policy – Freedom of speech should be allowed for everyone. It is unfair. Many times it is Islamic speakers that are banned, but not always extremist, it often makes assumptions of people.

- Hannah Barr – Would it not be better to have campaigns to discourage certain topics rather than banning individuals?
- Response: this could be a possibility that is looked in to.

- Emma Ord – Who would decide who goes on the policy? What if students disagree with the opinions of the Exec? –
- Response: This is one of the decisions we would need to make if we choose to have a policy like this.

- Matthew Fyson – Idea is to reduce extremism – but in their view, they are right and are just being silenced. Policies like this will push such speakers to spaces that are not as safe or controlled.

- Kyle Cross- Could we consider a case by case speaker policy instead? If enough people say no, prevent them on that occasion.

- Luke Exton – Point of information – we do have an existing external speakers policy which does vet potential speakers. Background checks are carried out by staff, but this currently sits within the Activities department.

- Haroldas Poderskis - Conservative Society was censured. Our university is already labelled restrictive of free speech.

- Matthew Gilbert – at what level do we cut off saying we do want one group, but not another? It is based only on external people coming on to campus. Students are not included in this.

- Grace Morgan - Last year – a feminist campaigner came to University. If we already have a No Platform policy, it doesn't work. If people don't want to listen to a debate, they won't attend. Clarification, we do not currently have a policy of this nature.

4.5 Accommodation Accreditation Scheme– Proposer: Connor Delany

Speech For: Almost all current schemes on campus do not take in to account student feedback, only safety features. Based on a survey, we will rank providers.

Questions:

- Emma Ord – wold this allow the SU to chase bad landlords? Response: Yes – SU President or VP Welfare & Community could list the issues and ask them to improve on the areas. If they are not accredited, they cannot attend the housing fayre, if they are not up to standard.

- Katie Maloney – would this survey apply to blocks – courts/pavilions etc.? Response: Yes this would be an option.

- Alex Bentley - Do you need agreement from landlords to include in survey? Response: No.

- If they get down rated, can they withdraw from fayre?
- Response: Yes they can. Not all people attend, a lot of companies do get most bookings from the fayres, so it is worth it. We will take in to account valid reasons and help them improve so students have ore good choices.

- Callum Bailey –What is survey turnout usually like? Response: Last year was 37% -highest ever

- Charlotte Buono – Could it be emphasised that students need to communicate to the landlord? Sometimes it is not the Landlord's fault, rather that students have not reported issues.
- Response: This could be a campaign.

- Michael Barton – people are more likely to complain than compliment. Students are more likely to say that there is an issues, than to give positive comments. What counter measures will be in place to protect landlords? Response: Landlord should be trying to prevent things that can lower their rating. There are categories, not just an overall 'best landlord' winner.

No speech against,
No speech to abstain.
Motion passes by assent.

4.6 Regulation 7 – Student to-let Advertising Boards – Proposer: Connor Delany

- Speech For: Almost constantly up on student houses. High risk of crime. Student houses can be seen as easy picking, mainly identified by the letting sign. Weeks before people notice over holidays. Helps students fit in to community, more likely to receive complaints if locals see you are students, they are not permanent residents. We don't want them on display all year.

No questions
No speech against
No speech to abstain.
Motion passes by assent

4.7 Automatic Voter Registration – Proposer: Connor Delany

- Speech For: Motion would allow us to lobby the university to combine voter registration with enrolment and reenrolment. Work with electoral services. Because we move each year, we can lose out on our democratic right. Large population of student in Lincoln, will allow for more student friendly policies. Students won't miss the deadline to vote. This is not asking you vote but helping you be able to if you want to.

- Emma Ord- Postal votes, how would this work?
- Response: You would register and then you could still apply online as usual, this would not affect your option to do this.

- Kyle Cross – how would you deal with opting out of open register – this should be a simple solution.

- Lewis Wright – If you are registered to vote in 2 places, how does that stop you voting in both, as a student?
- Response: for non-general elections, you can vote in both wards or constituencies. It is your responsibility to not vote twice in a General Election.

No Speech against
No speech to abstain.
Motion passes by assent

4.8 Mental Health first aid – Proposer: Connor Delany

- Speech For: Mental Health first aid courses are available, much like physical first aid. Early days intervention, when stress starts to affect your health is beneficial. Many students drop out as personal tutor and friends don't realise that they were more than just stressed. This could take up less NHS resources, it also give you a better chance at completing University. Giving personal tutors the tools to notice when to redirect students. Not training them as counsellors.

- Haroldas Poderskis – would these be professional accredited courses?
  Response: It could be in-house or external if needed, but trainers will be accredited, even if the course itself leads to no formal qualification.

- Jane Harris – Will it be accredited if it is only offered as and when, and will staff be made to take the training?
  Response: You might not get a full qualification, but trainers will be accredited.

- Louis Hunt-Cole. – Could there be a campaign in freshers to help student notice the signs? The first weeks of university have a high dropout rate. House mates are more likely to see the signs that staff.
  Response: Committee members of groups will have access to training too. Open to students and staff.

- Nial Francis – in the case of students having mental health issues, the University directs them to Personal tutors. This should be made mandatory so that all students have access to the same support.
  Response: Will try in the long run, but for now offering this as an option is a step in the right direction.

- Alex Bentley - LIBS students don't use Personal tutors. Could this be open to other staff members?
  Response: each school is different so this could be customised on a school by school basis.

No speech against
No speech to abstain.
Motion passes by assent

5. **Honorary Memberships (none to admit or remove)**

6. **Reports from Trustees**

(Please find these at lincolnsu.com/officer-reports)

- President – For context, these are a summary of what each Student Leader has done since being in position. More resources have been put in to campus health centre following the Walk in Centre closure. Excellent fresher's – commercial fayre highest turnout ever. Over 100 GOATing hours this week so far.

- Tommy – Plug sockets in lecture theatres were agreed, every time a lecture theatre is updated, where possible, more sockets will be put in. Working on Blackboard's ongoing issues.

- Connor – Worked on alternatives following Walk in Centre closure – the wellbeing centre and health centre will need more resources. Has done more work on sanitary products, with the university shop now selling them at cost price. Launched The Campaigns network.

- Luke – Secured LPAC discount for student societies. More storage space for sports teams. Social Sport programme was launched. Archery petition started following space issues. Taster sessions held and BUCS games started.

- Sophia – Lots of training in the first few weeks. Worked on an International welcome video with international office. The ISA now has 25 International Friends ready to help fellow International students settle in to Lincoln.

7. **Any Other Business**
   None

8. **Official notes and announcements**
   None

9. **Close of meeting**