



STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL

Minutes for the first Students' Union Council of the academic year 2009/2010 held on Thursday 8th October 2009, at 17:00 in Monte Hall, Froebel.

Present Dave Tinham, Gary Coates, Becky Aston, Natasha Blake, Anant Naik, Alex Murray, Adam Ozdemir, Luke Holliday, Roxie Kashani, Kate Andrews, Claire Fitzsimons, Krissy Heudebourck, Sarah Rumsby, Adam Le Breuilly, Rochelle Harvey, Harry Harris, Ben De La Tour, Josh Patterson, Shane Dickson, Katherine Stanley, Angetha Addison, Tadashi Suzuki, Kate Shury, Freya Perryman, Joe Booth, Ingrid Domas, Luke Springett.

Secretary Kate Griffiths

Apologies Nikki Watson, Callie Thorpe, Hais Hassan.

Confirmation of Minutes Previous minutes were confirmed via e-mail.

Dave Tinham was elected as Chair of the Students' Union Council.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

RSUC1/1
Gary
Coates

No members of the council wished to comment on Gary's report.

RSUC1/2
Becky
Aston

Becky asked the council if any members were free to help out on different days from 12-2pm to approach students about the upcoming campaigns and if they had any feedback they would like to give. This will come into effect next week (12th).

RSUC1/3**Anant
Naik**

Anant was asked how the radio station for the students will work and he is currently in talks about how to distribute it the right way. One aim is to get podcasts played in student bars, so the station will be accessible for all.

RSUC1/4**Natasha
Blake**

No members of the council wished to comment on Natasha's report.

RSUC1/5**Harry
Harris**

Harry is planning various events during the term, including an 80's night at the Belfry, as well as the Roehampton Players Beach night, also being held at the bar. The Digby Lions Football team are also doing well, having won their first match 4-0 against Luton.

RSUC1/6**Alex
Murray**

The Dirtbox schedule is out for this term and it will be happening every 4 weeks. Natasha suggested that Alex involve the DJ society, which meet every Wednesday in the Road Room from 5-6pm, in the Dirtbox events. There was a concern from Harry that, due to the Belfry being open until 11pm on Saturdays, he doesn't want to infringe upon the Dirtbox events as he has invited the DJ society to play at the Belfry on Saturdays. Tash is also in discussions with the ACS about DJing at Dirtbox.

RSUC1/7**Tadashi
Suzuki**

Tadashi is starting to teach free Japanese lessons after a lot of interest. He is also collaborating with the Japanese society about this.

RSUC1/8**Nikki
Watson**

Nikki was unable to attend the meeting so any questions were posed to Claire instead, however no members of the council wanted to comment on Nikki's report.

RSUC1/9**Krissy**

Heudebourck Krissy is still getting complaints about the amount of noise that Mount Clare are making when the students return from nights out. This is something that is also an issue for Tadashi at Whitelands, so it was

suggested they work together on trying to reduce this with such things as the lollipop campaign that Becky organised. There seems to be a lot of empty rooms at Mount Clare, however on a more positive note, Krissy is arranging some Mount Clare outings that will hopefully bond the campus.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Constitutional Updates

Gary has proposed that the constitution should be updated to clarify whether elected members of the council are the only ones who are allowed to vote or whether any student is able to have a vote. He would like to thank Dave who spent a long time picking the constitution apart! Overall it is very unclear in its explanation of who is allowed to vote. It states that “Full Members” are the only ones that can vote but does nothing to explain what a “Full Member” is. After putting it to the council for discussion, it was largely felt that only elected members should be allowed to vote as the student body has chosen them to represent them during these meetings, therefore they have trust that their views will be aired. It was therefore proposed that the constitution should be altered from “Full Members” to “Elected Members” and that this meant that only “Elected Members” were allowed to vote. After putting this proposition to the council vote, 24 council members voted in favour of the proposal, 1 voted against and there were no abstentions. The motion was passed and the constitution changed as a result.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Included in the agenda were the items for discussion which had been suggested by members of the council. The first item was a review of Fresher’s week and Gary was keen to find out from the DP’s and officers how they felt the week went.

- There were concerns from Harry that the flat reps on Digby had not been fully briefed about how to handle Fresher’s Sunday as he felt there was some confusion on the day, however this was not the view shared by other flat reps at different campuses who felt fully prepared for when the fresher’s moved in.
- Freya mentioned that there was also some confusion regarding her role, as she wasn’t aware that she had a society until she got to the fresher’s fair, so Natasha suggested they chat about what Freya wants to achieve from this role and whether or not she would like to continue Simon’s work and make it a society.
- Adam mentioned that he became aware that some people who were issued with fresher’s bands were actually not freshers and this was something Gary addressed as he mentioned that it was very difficult to control who received fresher’s passes as no student has their ID card to prove they are registered here until the register later in the week. However, the number of non-freshers who received fresher’s bands was very small. It was also said that the Sabbs had a number of flat reps in the queue for fresher’s bands on the Sunday and this shouldn’t have occurred as they were given the opportunity to purchase the bands the week before so they wouldn’t get in the way of the fresher’s getting them.

- Angetha voiced her concerns that she felt she was positioned in the wrong place at the Fresher's Fair as she was with the clubs and societies in the marquee on Digby lawn. However, Natasha suggested that this would probably be the best place for her as the chapel was mostly filled up with external companies, but she also mentioned that it will be something to take into consideration for the re-fresher's fair.
- A few people mentioned that as flat reps, they should be given some rewards for their achievements at the end of the year and it was suggested that this could take the form of a refund for the fresher's bands, however Gary was quick to point out that, as flat reps, they already have privileges that other students don't and there is an awards ceremony at the end of the year that recognises their achievements so this should be more than enough. It was also thought that rewarding the flat reps with money would promote the wrong message to future flat reps who could enter into it for the wrong reasons.
- Becky wanted to mention that the knowing me knowing you sessions were mostly attended by officers, however the response by the students who did attend was positive. It was felt that more advertising could have taken place for both this and the harps for hangovers who played for one day in the marquee. The people who were there thoroughly enjoyed the performance and it was just a shame that not many people were there to support them. Alex also suggested that there should be a knowing me knowing you top-up session to keep in regular contact with the various students and make sure they are enjoying their Uni experience.
- Ingrid also suggested that the non-alcoholic events should be given as much publicity as the evening events and this was something that was echoed by the majority of council members.

The next item on the agenda was the issue of disabled access to the events.

- Luke, the Disabilities Officer has spoken to both Fez and The Grand and they have said that they try to cater as much as possible for disabled students, however he felt that after The Grand had a refurbishment, it was made even worse in regards to disabled access. Fez is a listed building so it would be hard for them to change the entrance to the club, but as Gary pointed out, it's their responsibility to right this as it's in their best interests to make their club accessible to all.
- All on campus events cater for disabled students, but it was suggested that there be some sort of symbol on the posters for the on-campus events to show that they are disabled-friendly.
- There was a suggestion that a focus group should be set up with Becky in regards to this matter and a report given for the next SUC.
- During Wellbeing Week, Becky also wants to highlight how long it takes for a disabled student to get from one campus to another as she feels that people aren't fully aware of this and this will also fall under the "Don't Diss My Ability" scheme that she has set up.

The next item on the agenda to discuss was the possibility of holding a tournament for the winners of both the Frigby and Shitelands games to find an ultimate campus champion.

This was suggested by Tadashi who was keen to use the new facilities at the back of Whiteland for this event.

- There were concerns from some people that there wouldn't be enough time at the end of term, however, there is one extra week at the end of the summer term next year so there should be plenty of time for such an event.
- Natasha was keen to point out that she was planning some inter-college sports for the end of term, not necessarily focussed on football, therefore it would be accessible to all.
- The RAG cup idea supports this as well.
- Roxie also wanted to point out that it was unfortunate that May Day and Frigby happened on the same day last year, so people had to choose instead of being able to go to both. Gary guaranteed that it would not happen this year.
- There was a suggestion from Harry that Frigby is a big thing for those involved with either college, however Shitelands was a much smaller occasion and would it be an idea to make Shitelands as big as Frigby. This suggestion was met with some hesitation as it was felt that the distinction between the two events gave them their own individuality and that people would get different experiences with either event. Plus Shitelands is a fairly new event and it has not been given the time to grow and develop like Frigby has, so maybe in time it could grow to the same size, but at the moment it was felt that it should be held in its usual place on the pitches at the back of Whitelands. There was also a suggestion of a Shitelands BOP and this will also be taken into consideration.

Another suggestion from the agenda was a discussion about the ASDA free bus that would run between the colleges to the supermarket on Sundays.

- Currently Tadashi, who is trying to organise the service, has had some contact with possible volunteer drivers and is thinking about providing the service from 12pm-3pm on Sundays. It was felt by the DP's from the other colleges that this is something that would be beneficial for their campuses as well, so they were keen to get involved. However, there were concerns from some officers that it would be environmentally damaging as the bus would only be able to hold 15 people at a time, whereas buses such as the 85 or the 265 are able to carry more people and are environmentally more friendly than this bus. It's still in discussions but Tadashi was asked to update the council at the next meeting to see how this is developing.

A.O.B

- Becky was still having complaints about the noise that students' make when they return from a night out and she feels that all the members of the Student Union Council should enforce the fact that students' need to be quiet after events. She has a meeting with Ejiro and all the flat reps on Tuesday 14th October and anyone is welcome to come along to this.

- The lollipop campaign has had a good response but it was also observed that the promise of sweets after a night out prompted even more excitement and noise from the students!
- Next Wednesday 14th is the date for the AU social night. It's a chance to meet all the teams in Whitelands bar from 7pm and then move onto Fez.
- The money for all the societies is held in the Students' Union and it's up to the President of the societies to come up to the RSU and request it.
- Luke Springett has a meeting with societies on Friday 9th to enforce the fact that they need to be setting up meetings and planning events for their members.
- Gary would like two volunteers for the Student Experience Committee.
- Everyone would like to thank the officers for their efforts throughout Fresher's Week, it was a great success!

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd November 2009

KATE GRIFFITHS
RSU RECEPTIONIST
October 2009