



Minutes of the Executive Committee to discuss 'Where my rent went' campaign

17 November 2015, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm in Hel125, Cambridge and Mab006,
Chelmsford

Item No		Action
1	<p>Attendance</p> <p>1.1 Present</p> <p>Grace Anderson (GA) Academic Officer</p> <p>Alice Goodheart (AG) Disabled Students' Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Sarah Haider (SH) Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire)/Chair</p> <p>Sophie May (SM) Communications Officer</p> <p>Leigh Rooney (LR) Experience Officer (Essex)</p> <p><i>In attendance</i></p> <p>Emma Howes (EH) Representation Coordinator (Chelmsford) on behalf of Daniel Login, Democracy and Representation Manager/Secretary to the Executive Committee</p> <p>1.2 Apologies</p> <p>Shakil Ameerudden Communications Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Lauren Fidler Environmental & Community Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Victoria Martin Welfare Campaigns Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Michelle Rogers Women's Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Stewart Watson Sports Club Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Sammi Whitaker President</p> <p>1.3 Absent</p> <p>Farah Abualsuod Postgraduate Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Jonathan Adebisi FST Postgraduate Research Rep</p> <p>Samuel Akpoke FST Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Carinna Aldworth FHSCE Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Jessica Austin ALSS Postgraduate Research Rep</p> <p>Jessica Bush Sports Club Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Ben Coombes ALSS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Rabbi Deloso Postgraduate Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Oluwafemi George FMS Postgraduate Research Rep</p> <p>Nicola Gillin FHSCE Postgraduate Research Rep</p>	

	<p>Selina Grazia FST Faculty Rep (Cambridge) Shona Hoey ALSS Faculty Rep (Cambridge) Emma Houghton Welfare Campaigns Rep (Chelmsford) Charlotte Hurden Communications Rep (Cambridge) Thea Maragkakis Environmental & Community Rep (Chelmsford) Samer Mashlah LAIBS Postgraduate Research Rep Nathaniel Miles FMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge) Precious Nwanze International Rep (Chelmsford) Uche Nwosu Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) Students' Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Selina Okeke FMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford) Dominic Ominowo FST Postgraduate Research Rep Niles Pedersen Disabled Students' Rep (Cambridge) Gregory Powell Societies Rep (Cambridge) Olivia Rees FHSCE Faculty Rep (Cambridge) Millie Smith Women's Rep (Cambridge) Grace Stanley LAIBS Faculty Rep (Cambridge) Nanci Tareco International Rep (Cambridge) Natalie Walsh LGBT+ Students' Rep (Cambridge) Rich Warner FMS Postgraduate Research Rep Shaun Yates ALSS Postgraduate Research Rep</p> <p>1.4 Declaration of Interest None</p>	
2	<p>There was a discussion around the Rate my Landlord and/or Landlord accreditation scheme:</p> <p>The team are considering dropping the independent accreditation scheme or preferably inputting into existing council schemes. They hope to expand beyond existing health and safety info and encourage council schemes to include student specifics e.g international students, liberation/discrimination.</p> <p>A decision about proceeding with the Rate your Landlord has been postponed until more research is completed.</p> <p>Rate my landlord discussions included:</p> <p>Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libel and legal issues; how to avoid these problems. • Vetting feedback: who would do this, costings for staff e.g. student staff (limited to 15 hours contract) and a right to reply for landlords. • How to ensure positive as well as negative feedback? • Research is needed into how it will run and would be more likely to need funding (Feb bidding phase) and launch later in the year. 	

	<p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This could be interactive and useful. • Company who run the accreditation scheme also run a rate my landlord as of August 2015. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Unipol for details on their rate my landlord scheme. • JISCMail request for info on rate my landlord schemes. • Research existing council accreditation schemes for Cambridge. • Research existing council accreditation scheme for Chelmsford. • Content for Website regarding rights and responsibilities of tenants by 23rd November. • Photo competition and advice on mould (including officer mould cleaning team for 3 students to generate video and engagement). Tweets etc to be scheduled. Aim to Launch by 30th November. • Communications plan in place by 19th November. • Remaining checklists and magnets to be distributed by table sessions with the wendy house in Chelmsford and Cambridge by 28th November. • Create a mailing list for Chelmsford to send out checklist, magnets and letters (new order will need to be put in). SM to forward existing lists to LR, Chelmsford to be sorted by LR. • Photographic competition planned - title to be changed from 'rogue landlords'. Using #rentwent on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or emailed to SM. Prize to be considered for best and worst landlord photos. Aim to launch refreshers fair with campaign table first week February. • Intention for SU to be present on accommodation fairs. TBC • Fake letting agents for house of horrors if phot comp responses are good. TBC <p>Actions completed. Letters received by all students in Cambridge private rented accommodation. There will be people missed by this system as it is based on areas known to have students in private rented accommodation.</p> <p>Meeting with local landlord was scheduled for 16th November but has been postponed.</p> <p>Sit in was discussed but will be placed on the back burner as it is less relevant to the desired outcomes: Rating landlords, providing advice to students.</p>	<p>GA GA SH AG SM</p> <p>SM</p> <p>SM SM</p> <p>SM/LR</p> <p>SM</p>
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