



### Minutes of the first Executive Committee

5 November 2015, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm in Hel125, Cambridge and Tin302,  
Chelmsford

Item No		Action
1	<p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p><b>1.1 Present</b></p> <p>Farah Abualsuod (FA) Postgraduate Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Samuel Akpoke (SA) FST Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Grace Anderson (GA) Academic Officer</p> <p>Jessica Bush (JB) Sports Club Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Rabbi Deloso (RD) Postgraduate Rep (Chelmsford) <i>from 12:30pm</i></p> <p>Lauren Fidler (LF) Environmental &amp; Community Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Alice Goodheart (AG) Disabled Students' Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Sarah Haider (SH) Experience Officer (Cambridgeshire)/Vice Chair</p> <p>Charlotte Hurden (CH) Communications Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Thea Maragkakis (TM) Environmental &amp; Community Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Precious Nwanze (PN) International Rep (Chelmsford) <i>until 11am</i></p> <p>Uche Nwosu (UN) Black &amp; Minority Ethnic (BME) Students' Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Gregory Powell (GP) Societies Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Michelle Rogers (MR) Women's Rep (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Leigh Rooney (LR) Experience Officer (Essex)</p> <p>Millie Smith (MS) Women's Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Nanci Tareco (NT) International Rep (Cambridge) <i>until 12pm</i></p> <p>Natalie Walsh (NW) LGBT+ Students' Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Stewart Watson (SWa) Sports Club Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p>Sammi Whitaker (SWi) President/Chair</p> <p><b><i>In attendance</i></b></p> <p>Linda Collett (LC) Office Coordinator (Chelmsford)</p> <p>Matthew Ensor (ME) Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Daniel Login (DL) Democracy and Representation Manager/Secretary to the Executive Committee</p> <p>Naomi Rudd (NR) Office Coordinator (Cambridge)</p> <p>Guy Stepney (GS) Head of Student Engagement and Communication</p>	

	<p><b>1.2 Apologies</b></p> <p>Carinna Aldworth FHSCE Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)  Shakil Ameerudden Communications Rep (Chelmsford)  Selina Grazia FST Faculty Rep (Cambridge)  Shona Hoey ALSS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)  Emma Houghton Welfare Campaigns Rep (Chelmsford)  Victoria Martin Welfare Campaigns Rep (Cambridge)  Samer Mashlah LAIBS Postgraduate Research Rep  Sophie May Communications Officer  Nathaniel Miles FMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)  Dominic Ominowo FST Postgraduate Research Rep  Niles Pedersen Disabled Students' Rep (Cambridge)  Olivia Rees FHSCE Faculty Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p><b>1.3 Absent</b></p> <p>Jonathan Adebisi FST Postgraduate Research Rep  Ben Coombes ALSS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)  Nicola Gillin FHSCE Postgraduate Research Rep  Selina Okeke FMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)  Grace Stanley LAIBS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)</p> <p><b>1.4 Declaration of Interest</b>  None</p>	
2	<p><b>Welcome and explanation of terms of reference</b></p> <p>SWi welcomed everyone and introduced DL who outlined the terms of reference. He explained that although the Executive Committee was focused around the work of the Executive Officers and Campaign Reps; the Faculty and Postgraduate Research Reps were also constituted members and welcome to attend.</p> <p>Staff members left the room whilst the meeting discussed and agreed that staff would be in attendance at this and future meetings.</p>	
3	<p><b>Permanent items</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Executive Officer reports</b></p> <p><b>3.1.1 Sammi Whitaker</b></p> <p>SWi presented her one page plan and explained that she had done further work on the forthcoming Green Week and would welcome input from the Environmental &amp; Community Reps. She went on to say that Anglia Ruskin would be the first UK university to take part in Green Monday.</p> <p>The following questions and responses were received:</p> <p>Q – Were members of the committee aware of the Global Sustainability Institute (GSI) and its work?  A – SWi was currently working with the GSI on several of her objectives.  Q – Request that safe space in Cambridge be investigated as part of solidarity pledges.</p>	

<p>A – SWi to investigate.  SWi was congratulated on her work on Green Week and it was noted that UN would be interested in being involved.</p> <p><b>3.1.2 Grace Anderson</b>  GA presented her one page plan and explained that she had also been working on supporting students during Ramadan and on facilitating alternative assessments in FST.</p> <p>The following questions and responses were received:</p> <p>Q – GP noted that he had also been working on alternative assessment and was hoping to achieve this in one of his modules.</p>	<p><b>SWi</b></p>
<p>It was suggested that GA liaise with Caroline Shanahan and it was noted that CH would be happy to help GA.</p> <p><b>3.1.3 Sarah Haider</b>  SH presented her one page plan and explained that she had also been working on the International Festival.</p> <p>The following questions and responses were received:</p> <p>Q – How successful had Open Mic been?  A – About 60 people had attended despite there being less publicity than SH would have liked.</p>	<p><b>GA</b></p>
<p>Both International Reps expressed interest in assisting with the International Festival so SH to send details of the planned meeting with Caroline Shanahan to both.</p> <p>SH was congratulated for her hard work over the past few months in an area which was currently very short staffed.</p> <p><b>3.3.4 Leigh Rooney</b>  LR presented her one page plan and requested any feedback or ideas on the Experience board and new clubs and societies.</p> <p>The following questions and responses were received:</p> <p>Q – MR asked if it was possible to target mature students.  A – LR looking at all the different demographics. LR and MR to work together. It was noted that Student Council had voted a policy to elect a Mature Students’ Rep and that this position would be in place for the next election, pending approval. It was agreed that there was a lot of support for family days on both campuses and that these were an ideal opportunity to encourage young people to think about going to university.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Experience board was a positive idea which would encourage</p>	<p><b>SH</b></p>

	<p>students who did not know who to talk to about an issue to share their thoughts. The idea of the EO challenge was commended as a good way of engaging with students.</p>	
4	<p><b>Items for Discussion</b></p> <p><b>4.1 “Where my rent went” campaign</b></p> <p>SWi explained the background to the Where my rent went (WRMR) campaign and that the team had wanted to do something around accommodation as the quality of some properties were not reflective of the rent charged. She noted that most of the campaign was on track, with the check list and the letters written and ready to send. The team were to be involved in the Accommodation fair for the first time.</p> <p>Q – Were the team working with local councils on the accreditation scheme? A – Chelmsford have a scheme with the council but in Cambridge there was only a general scheme.</p> <p>It was suggested a scheme like Trip Adviser could be used for students to give feedback on specific landlords/properties, but caution would be needed to ensure that this did not result in fewer properties being available for students. It was agreed that landlords needed an incentive to take part in the Union scheme, that good landlords should be given credit and that, in properties where there were issues, that evidence was needed in order to give landlords a chance to put things right. It was noted that, after consultation with the Advice Service team, it had been agreed to move away from naming and shaming.</p> <p>As there was considerable interest in this item, it was suggested that a separate WMRW meeting be set up to discuss ideas more fully. SH to arrange.</p> <p><b>4.2 Democracy review</b></p> <p>DL explained that the review was taking place for two reasons: firstly the current model was not very dynamic or exciting and secondly, there was not much engagement from students. The review would cover Student Council, Executive Committee, elections and officer roles. NUS would be providing support for the review which was currently in the early stages. There was currently a survey live online which asks for students’ preferences: the closing date for this was 6 November, and the Executive Committee were asked to promote it as much as possible.</p> <p>The next stage would be a workshop to look at the responses and for NUS to supply recommendations. It was noted that input from the committee would be sought and that there may be the need to arrange a meeting to facilitate further discussion.</p> <p>Congratulations were extended to the Dem &amp; Rep team for their work on this.</p> <p><b>4.3 Lapsing policy</b></p> <p>SWi explained that policies that were passed by Student Council automatically lapsed after a year. The policies attached were due to lapse in November and so a discussion was needed to on whether the policies needed to be taken back to Student Council. She went on to say that even if the Executive Committee did not</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>DL</p>

	<p>agree to take a policy to Student Council, an individual could do this.</p> <p><b>Lower Accommodation Prices</b> GA explained that she had wanted an investigation into hidden costs. A discussion took place where it was agreed that it was important for students, particularly international students to know what hidden costs were involved, but that it was important that the policy did not repeat the work of the WRMR campaign. It was suggested that the policy could be put forward with an amendment to focus on lobbying local MPs to take the issue of hidden costs to Parliament. It was agreed that GA would re-write the policy, and that any members of the Executive Committee that were interested in helping would email their interest to GA.</p> <p><b>It's #TimeToTalk Mental Health</b> SH reported that Mental Health first aid training was now available for staff and officers and that everything possible within the policy had been completed. A question was raised as to whether there were any University staff specifically trained to offer facilities to LGBT students. It was suggested that counsellors would probably have received some training in this area but that SH and NW would work together on this.</p> <p><b>No Platform Policy</b> It had been included in error and was not lapsing until February.</p> <p><b>Transgender Participation in Sport 2014</b> It was noted that NUS was supporting this policy. Although the charter was worked on last year, this still needed to be completed. It was agreed that SH and NW would work together and take the policy, with amendments back to Student Council on behalf of the Executive Committee.</p>	<p><b>GA ALL</b></p> <p><b>SH/NW</b></p> <p><b>SH/NW</b></p>
5	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>5.1 LGBT+ Students' Rep positions in Chelmsford and Peterborough</b> It was noted that these were currently unfilled but that DL and the Executive Officers were looking at the next steps to filling the vacant positions.</p> <p><b>5.2 Thanks</b> ME extended thanks to the Executive Committee on behalf of staff and noted that it had been an exciting new step forward for Anglia Ruskin Students' Union.</p> <p><b>5.3 Future meetings</b> DL asked if there was support for all members of the Executive Committee meeting on one campus. There was general support for this.</p>	<b>DL</b>
	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting:</b> 9 December 2015, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm in Hel125, Cambridge and Mab006, Chelmsford</p>	
	<b>Video conference ended</b>	
	<b>Cambridge</b>	
6	<p><b>6.1 Campaign Rep reports</b></p> <p><b>6.1.1 Natalie Walsh – LGBT+ Students' Rep (Cambridge)</b> NW has been meeting with the community LGBT+ leaders in Cambridge who would like to work and have an ongoing relationship with the university. ARU have been offered a pitch and float at the Pink Festival held at Chery Hinton park. This event welcomes all members of the community to go along and take part at the event.</p>	

	<p>Discussion took place about asking societies such as AMT for help especially for the carnival. SWa and LF both offered their support with the event. SWa said he could ask sports teams to get involved and offer fun training sessions for the community, and LF said this would be a good opportunity for ARU students to get involved with the community.</p> <p>LGBT+ history month is going to be held at Queens's college. NW said that there will be lots of volunteering roles that the SU volunteering service are offering opportunities for. NW asked for everyone to promote the event and the roles available to students.</p> <p><b>6.1.2 Stewart Watson – Sports Club Rep (Cambridge)</b></p> <p>SWa would like to promote sports to disabled and BME students as he feels that they tend to be forgotten. He plans to have a charter signed by sports team that agrees to welcome all students in taking part in sport and also when social events are organised that all students' needs and beliefs are taken into view and acknowledged. SWa's idea is that he would like sports to be featured in open days especially during international open days. SH to provide SWa details of the sports club presidents and organise a meeting with Active Anglia (AA) to introduce the new sports rep. This then should help get SWa involved in helping AA get involved with International Festival and help promote sports via the world cup theme.</p> <p><b>6.1.3 Farah Abualsuod – Postgraduate Rep (Cambridge)</b></p> <p>FA has currently no one page plan however will be meeting with GA to go through how to do this and what she would like to put in this. FA would like to concentrate on working with international students and how to help them when they first arrive. FA is an international student and understands and went through similar experiences and therefore would like to improve this for other new students from overseas. SH and FA to meet to discuss potential activities and societies that could be set up. FA would also like to look at the promotion of postgraduate opportunities and activities available at ARU. SH recommended that FA could work with both SWa to help get sport promoted better for postgrads and with CH to increase the ways of communicating with these students.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>SH/FA</p>
7	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Charlotte Hurden – Communications Rep (Cambridge)</b></p> <p>CH discussed that she does not currently have a plan in place for her position as she is not sure what campaign she could do in her role. However she did offer help, support and promotion of all campaigns.</p> <p><b>7.1 Safe Space</b></p> <p>The issue of having a safe space at the university and at events outside the university was brought up and discussed. It was said that there is a big issue with having an area for nursing mothers to have an area to breast feed on campus currently. It was also discussed how safe spaces shouldn't be an area for people to isolate themselves but an area where they can take themselves and have a good time. SH said that she is attending a campus operations meeting on the 19/11/2015 and if anyone would like to provide a paper on safe space or any other issues/ideas she can present at the meeting then please email her.</p> <p>SWa also spoke about an idea of having the gym booked out on regular intervals for women only. Discussion took place on how this could go forward, who this would</p>	<p>ALL</p>

	benefit and what possible amendments maybe needed to make this an area for women to work out without any other worries for example religious beliefs and clothing such as the hijab.	
	<b>Chelmsford</b>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>8.1 Campaign Rep reports</b></p> <p><b>8.1.1 Alice Goodheart – Disabled Students’ Rep (Chelmsford)</b> AG presented her one page plan and reported that she had been attempting to find her target students. It was suggested that she contact the Disabled Students Society and also use the data collected via the University. A discussion took place about contacting students who had declared a disability and it was agreed that it was important to put out information to disabled students to let them know what support was available if it was needed.</p> <p>SWi to send information about the NUS Disabled Students campaign and GS to supply data. TM and MR expressed an interest in helping AG. It was suggested that mental health disability be included in the campaign. LR to send contact details of student who wanted to set up a society to TM.</p> <p><b>8.1.2 Michelle Rogers – Women’s Rep (Chelmsford)</b> MR presented her one page plan and noted that she would also like to work on issues surrounding lad culture and consent. It was agreed that she would discuss these with SWi. She reported that she would like to set up networking meetings and invite external successful women to attend. SWi to forward NUS contacts.</p> <p>It was suggested that MR and JB work together on women in sport and also with NW on solidarity pledges. It was agreed to set up a working group to discuss these.</p> <p><b>8.1.3 Thea Maragakakis – Environmental &amp; Community Rep (Chelmsford)</b> TM presented her one page plan. LR explained about the People’s Patch where members of the community were already growing food on campus. SWi to arrange a green tour of the campus. UN and RD expressed an interest in becoming involved.</p> <p><b>8.1.4 Jessica Bush – Sports Club Rep (Chelmsford)</b> JB presented her one page plan and went on to say that students wanted to become involved but did not know where to go, so she would be doing a survey to find out what students want. She went on to say that students had already indicated that they wanted improved gym facilities and that there was an interest in outdoor winter sports.</p> <p><b>8.1.5 Uche Nwosu – Black &amp; Minority Ethnic (BME) Students’ Rep (Chelmsford)</b> UN presented his one page plan and explained that he wanted to facilitate a cultural exchange as part of the International festival. He would also like international students to be able to have stalls as part of the weekly market.</p>	<p><b>SWi</b></p> <p><b>LR</b></p> <p><b>SWi</b></p> <p><b>MR/LR</b></p> <p><b>SWi</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<b>AOB</b> None	