

Executive Committee (FVC and LEDIC) Minutes; 22nd September 2021, 11:00-13:00

P = Present, Ap = Apologies,		
1.1.1 Members		
Cavya Antony	President (CHAIR)	Р
Sobin Sojan	Vice President: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences	Ар
Ashique Salim	Vice President: Business & Law	P
Divya Agarwal	Vice President: Health Education Medicine & Social Care	Р
Kevin Long	Vice President: Science and Engineering	Ар
Abbie Harper	AHSS Faculty Rep	A
Wonda Grobbelaar	B&L Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)	Р
Abu Suresh	B&L Faculty Rep (Cambridge)	Α
Ines Da Silva Correia	HEMS Faculty Rep (Chelmsford)	Р
Lucy Barton	HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)	Α
Cal O'Connor	HEMS Faculty Rep (Cambridge)	Α
Elle Rimmer	HEMS Faculty Rep (Peterborough)	А
Olubenga Oluwatominiyi	BME Students Rep (Chelmsford)	Р
Tiegan-Leigh Everitt	Disabled Students Rep (Cambridge)	Ар
Akshay Kumbalath	International Students Rep (Chelmsford)	Ар
Robin Robert	International Students Rep (Cambridge)	А
Charlotte Fraser-Williams	LGBT+ Students Rep (Chelmsford)	Р
Kat Persaud	LGBT+ Students Rep (Cambridge)	А
Neethu Jose	Women's Rep (Chelmsford)	А
Chelsea-Marie Cochrane	Women's Rep (Cambridge)	Ар
Maddison Taylor	Mental Health Rep (Chelmsford)	Р
Alina Clarke	Mental Health Rep (Chelmsford)	Р
1.1.2 Observers		
Emma Howes	Engagement Manager	Р
Rose Guy	Director of Advocacy and Engagement	Р

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2.	 2. Items for Discussion 2.1 Student Trustee Update CA: The 2 student trustees were approved by a quorate vote of Executive Committee. RG: Clarified process of appointment. 	
	2.2 Exec Uniform EH: Please put in the chat or email Emma size for Exec uniform.	All
	 2.3 Committee-ments EH: Listed current vacancies on senate and other committees CFW: Will take the UG place on ASQ WG: Would like to attend Student Matters OO: Would like to attend Student Matters EH: Outstanding spaces – 4 x Reps: SEC, 1 x PGT Rep: ASQ, 1 x UG Rep: Student Matters Please email or add to the chat if you would like to take these on. I will inform committees of new attendees. 	All EH
3.	 Faculty Rep Updates: 3.1 Faculty Rep B&L Chelmsford: WG: Problems raised by students: misunderstanding rules or processes and problems caused by communication issues. EH: Direct individuals to advice team. Gather further feedback and identify key aspects of communications causing problems (eg: module guides / registration / course tutor emails.) Work with Rep Coordinator Harriet Ratty to report to FPT / FEC with issues. RG: Once course reps are elected we can support you to consult more widely. 3.2 Faculty Rep HEMS Chelmsford: IC: How do I reach out to students? EH: For canvas communications and faculty newsletters you can discuss with faculty staff in FPT. For direct communications the SU can support and help send info or arrange forums and drop ins, but this will be more effective once course reps are in place due to the size of the HEMS faculty. (15,000+ students) 	
4.	 Campaign Rep Updates 4.1 BME Rep Chelmsford OO: How do I reach out to BME students? EH: We will be establishing a network for each campaign rep and will support you to use this and get sign ups. We can help you to be involved in or organise events eg: history months. We will also have 2 new staff members who will be your campaigns support from next week; Joe Bunkle in Cambridge and Fraser Luther-Yarwood in Chelmsford CFW: Networks will be helpful to reach an audience beyond your course and for a protected characteristics. IC: Would canvas announcement be allowed? RG: We can reach out to all students in you faculty through your rep coordinator. Through your committees you will access to faculty newsletters / canvas etc. Our comms team can help you with eg: social media profiles. CA: We can all work together and we have a powerful voice together! 	
5.	Executive Committee Updates: 5.1 President: CA: Teaching has started and we have had complaints from staff about student's behaviour re: COVID expectations / social distancing. MT: What are the current rules? CA: Mask inside buildings are encouraged but not mandatory.	

RG: Staff may be concerned if they have underlying conditions (which they do not need to	
reveal), but government guidelines do not mandate mask wearing.	
MT: It is not clear that mask wearing is encouraged indoors and many are not wearing them	
perhaps because they are unaware. Unless it is mandatory it is individual choice.	

CA: Planning a campaign on mandatory EDI training for all students. Based on feedback about insensitivity regarding protected characteristics. Addressing discrimination and disrespect in student to student interactions. Not clear yet how to deliver this. CFW: Would like to be involved in this campaign. NHS provide basic inclusivity training as an example.

CA: I want to reduce student services (IT / Library) email response times. 5 working times is a long time and student feedback says these deadlines are being missed.
CFW: These waiting times have delayed my registration and some take weeks to respond. A more honest timescale notification might stop some of the frustration.
CA: We know a lot of this is caused by the time of year as new students make the services very busy. But this still needs resolving – especially as it is impacting on students commencing their studies.

5.2 VP Business and Law

AS: Placement programme campaign. Started meeting with the placement manager to discuss what steps we might need to take to increase placement programmes.

AS: Accommodation contracts campaign. I met with accommodation working group and plan to do data collection through focus groups in Jan or Feb and online.

AS: I want to speak with WG prior to FPT to discuss communication issues in B&L. This is linked to the whole team campaign which CA discussed.

AS: Supporting an app linked to the incubation centre to share ideas and innovation. Will share when completed.

5.3 VP Health Education Medicine and Social Care

DA: Started working on sanitary provision – the university has agreed to put vending machines into gender neutral as well as female bathrooms.

DA: I would like to support students to contribute to foodbanks / collect free food on campus to share and be more sustainable. I have started speaking to the Uni about this.

DA: Men's wellbeing and language barriers. Speaking in a second language makes discussing emotions and wellbeing more challenging. I have spoken to counselling team about how to bring language support into these spaces or hire online services. I raised concerns raised by Exec regarding the language used on forms for counselling services. The team are also looking to recruit more BAME counsellors.

DA: Working with faculty staff and LB on the faculty newsletter and we will be creating this in the next couple of months.

IC: I would like to support this too.

DA: Met with Catherine Lee to discuss wellbeing training for students in HEMS.

5.4 VP Arts Humanities and Social Sciences

CA: SS wants to implement UMI app for supporting social meet ups for students.

		EDIC 26/21
	CA: SS also wants to work on staff shortages and the impact on communication times for students.	
	5.5 VP Science & Engineering CA: KJ has an Employability campaign: On campus recruitment and webinars with industry experts to improve employability after graduation.	
	CA: KJ will be looking at delivering different world wide cuisine through ARU canteens.	
6.	 6. Equality networks: This training / support will be for the Campaign Rep Equality Networks implementation. Due to leave in the comms team this will be rolled over to next meeting 	
7.	7. Campaign Ideas*	
8.	8. Policy Implementation*	
9.	 9. Budget EH: Outline of budget requests process and funds remaining (£5000). DA: Can this be used for social events? 	
	EH: If they are campaigns relevant eg: Best Night Out campaign.	
10.	10. AOB 10.1 CA: Please encourage each other to attend Exec and thanks to those who are here today. Please talk to us about your campaign ideas to work together on them.	
	10.2 TL via email: Re communication campaign; I was waiting a month for a reply from the timetabling department and still do not have a fully accurate timetable.	
	TL via email: I've been contacted by the disability service in regards to a student with autism spectrum disorder who was asking for social support at the uni. I think having some kind of buddy system for students with social/communication disabilities may be something we could look into? also any recommendation on how to go about helping this student would be greatly appreciated.	
	10.3 EH: Provided update on vacant exec roles and link to recommend a friend.	
	10.4 EH: Next meeting date will be assessed via doodle poll. CA: Thankyou for coming. We're looking forward to a good year!	