

The Student Summit, 29th March 2023

Microsoft Teams & Cambridge LAB006

Item				Action																																																																														
1	1.1 Attendance, Named Members:																																																																																	
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<p>1.1.2 Attendance: 17 Student members attended 2 in person, 9 online Officers attended: 6 Facebook views of the recorded meeting before close of voting (Fri 31st March 3pm): 147</p>																																																																																		

	<p>1.1.3 Attendance: Observers and Guests</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 215 1347 584"> <tr> <td>Bethan Dudas</td> <td>Membership Services Director</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Valerkou</td> <td>Chief Executive Officer</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tony Bickley</td> <td>Director of Communications and Commercial Services</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Katie Martin</td> <td>Communications Manager</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harvey Lindsey</td> <td>Communications Coordinator</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jess Walker</td> <td>Communications Coordinator</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jo Bunkle</td> <td>AHSS Representation and Campaigns Coordinator</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Linda Collet</td> <td>Office Coordinator</td> <td>P</td> </tr> </table>	Bethan Dudas	Membership Services Director	P	John Valerkou	Chief Executive Officer	P	Tony Bickley	Director of Communications and Commercial Services	P	Katie Martin	Communications Manager	P	Harvey Lindsey	Communications Coordinator	P	Jess Walker	Communications Coordinator	P	Jo Bunkle	AHSS Representation and Campaigns Coordinator	P	Linda Collet	Office Coordinator	P	
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2.	EH: Welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the elected officers.																									
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p>AGM:</p> <p>EH: Referred everyone to the minutes from the previous AGM, requested that any comments or amendments be recorded on the voting page and that members cast their vote to approve them.</p> <p>SS: Explained the annual accounts from 2021-22. The total income had been £2.3 million which was an increase of £371,000 over the previous year. The block grant from the University which pays for staff, societies and activities, had increased by £230,000, with an additional sports grant of £20,000.</p> <p>The total spend for the year had been £2.15 million, which was an underspend resulting in a surplus of £165,000. The Union continued to repay a pension deficit of £800,000.</p> <p>There was currently £1.1 million pounds in reserves, some of which the Union was looking to spend on improving the student experience.</p> <p>There was also £300,000 of restricted funds for the ARU London.</p> <p>The report confirmed that the current cash flow statement were good and the Union was in a safe position financially.</p> <p>Members were requested to approve the accounts via the online voting page.</p> <p>SS: Explained the current affiliations.</p> <p>Members were requested to approve the affiliations via the online voting page.</p>																									
4.	<p>SS: Executive Committee Minutes. These were available online and were taken as read.</p> <p>Members were requested to make any comments and to approve the minutes via the online voting page.</p>																									
5.	<p>EH: Open floor questions were invited.</p> <p>No open floor questions were posed.</p>																									

	This concluded the formal business of the AGM.	
6.	Officer Updates	
6.1	President: Worked on distributing pronoun badges, the accommodation shortage and liberation walls.	
6.2	VP HEMS: Worked on awareness video which would shortly be available on the website, a HEMS students' page, signposting and working with the University on a new module on misconduct and how to avoid it. A question online was raised – Q - Would the misconduct module be compulsory? A – The module was currently in the testing phase but when it was finalised, it would not be compulsory.	
6.3	VP FBL: Worked on workshops for FBL students, CV and interview preparation for students and UK driving awareness for international students. This trimester will be working on promoting part time jobs alongside ARU Temps and promoting the hardship fund. An online question was raised – Q Is there scope to argue for more money from hardship funds given the current crisis? – A – The hardship fund does not run out so eligible students should be able access funds. There were also other bursaries available such as commuter student, child and carer. Other sources of funding may be available – information can be gained from course leaders.	
6.4	VP FSE: Worked on providing food baskets, updating the Renter's Guide and accommodation. This trimester will be working on providing student intern positions within the University and introducing faculty drop-in sessions. An online question was raised – Q - Is the SU aware of any short term or long term plans to address the lack of accommodation – A – In the short term, the University had used Travelodges to provide beds for students. In the long term they were hoping to increase the number of beds in Cambridge by 100 by September.	
6.5	VP AHSS: Worked on recording the mental health podcasts, which were now available online, worked with NUS on the cost of living crisis, resulting in the government approving £15 million for student hardship, cost of materials for students in AHSS, resulting in the faculty carrying out an audit of prices, visibility of the Students' Union, resulting in more signage including floor stickers, and exam de-stress cafes to encourage students to take a break during the exam periods. An online question was raised – Q Will exam de-stress packages and events be available each trimester around exam/submission periods? A – This was an ongoing project and it was hoped that it would be available every trimester during exam periods.	

6.6	<p>VP Healthcare Practice: Worked on obtaining adequate prayer space which would be ready by 8 September, transport to placements, placement travel guide and EDI. Smaller projects included water fountains in the Library, an online HEMS guide and a placement practice guide.</p> <p>An online question was raised – Q - Is there any indication of how recent NHS strikes may have impacted demand on students on placements? A – Schools of Medicine and Nursing had been contacted prior to the strikes to ensure that the impact of any strike action was minimised. No students had been in contact with any issues since the strikes.</p>	
7	<p>Executive Committee Updates</p> <p>No members of the Executive committee were present to provide an update.</p> <p>All updates were available online.</p>	
8.	<p>Democracy review</p> <p>NR – Introduced the policy development proposal and explained that insight and input had been gathered from students, staff and other unions around the country. The Board of Trustees had identified significant challenges with student engagement and had directed the Union to conduct a full review of its democratic system.</p> <p>BD – Explained that this was a policy proposal and that the democracy team were seeking feedback from members on whether this was the right direction of travel.</p> <p>Part one of the proposal was to connect campaigns more with the communities they were campaigning for by connecting campaign roles to societies, and to support and resource these roles appropriately.</p> <p>Part two was to focus membership of the Executive committee and to reduce the amount of paperwork and time spent on meetings and so freeing time for reps to focus on representing their students.</p> <p>Part three was to improve accountability, engagement and communication of elected reps by providing specific support and informal channels for students to hold their elected reps to account.</p> <p>An online question was raised – Q - Where will funding for their projects/campaigns come from e.g. the society pot or the current budget for the executive? A – There would continue to be a campaigns budget which would not be reduced.</p> <p>Members were reminded that this was a consultation process and were encouraged to provide feedback on the proposal and to indicate whether this was considered to be the right direction of travel, via the online voting page.</p>	

9.	<p>Policy</p> <p>EH – Explained that a policy proposal required 50 votes for it to be considered. The Men’s rep policy had been submitted by a student, Matt Evans. The role would sit on the Executive committee. However, if the democracy structure should change in line with the proposals previously discussed, this position would be null and void.</p> <p>Matthew Evans explained the background to the policy.</p> <p>A question from the room was raised – Q – Would the role be open to trans or cis-gender males? A – If someone identifies as a man they would be eligible.</p> <p>Concerns from the room were expressed that the creation of a Men’s rep would not resolve the issues raised in the policy proposal.</p> <p>Officers also noted that their campaigns were inclusive of all.</p> <p>EH – Discussion on policy development including references and comments, can continue online via the voting page. Voting will remain open until 3 pm on Friday 31 March. This meeting will be shared online to enable those not present to look at the questions and answers and engage with the voting process.</p>	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>VP Healthcare Practice invited everyone to an iftar in the students spaces in Chelmsford and Cambridge from 7.00 pm.</p> <p>EH: Voting link shared once more.</p>	

Minute	Action Arising	Person Responsible