



University of Lincoln Students' Union
Student Council Minutes

Monday 28th April in Moot Court, David Chiddick Building.

Chair Alexandrya-Carmen Mbu
College of Social Sciences Officer Charlotte Greenley
College of Arts Officer Linford Butler

School Reps

Architecture Daniel Orford
Art and Design Mark Snowden
Life Sciences Daniel Addai
Performance Tom Briggs
Science Tom Candy
Drama Alys Brown

Societies Council

Societies Council rep

Sports Council

Sports Council Rep Chris Green

In Attendance – Non Voting

Jack Maddock Holly Marriott Natasha Chapman
Reece Horsely Bruno Cargill Charlotte Gleeson
Thomas Mitchell Benjamin Higgott William Hall-Roberts
Sam Gilbert Gregor Smith
Callum Watt Luke Thompson
Olivia Hill Patrick Colquhoun
Alex Hall Drew Cook

Vice-President Activities Joe Burt
Vice-President Welfare & Community Brian Alcorn
Chief Executive Officer James Brooks
Student Voice & Rep Manager Aidan Mersh
Membership Services Manager Ian Johnston
Communications Worker Scott McGinn
Volunteer Support Worker Amy Noble
Course Representative Worker Kirsty Barnes
Academic Affairs Ian Antwi
President Dan Sam
Finance Controller Dean Howard

1. Apologies for Absence

Noted:

- Apologies were received from Kate Withers, Brett Knights and Aimee Parks.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Agreed:

- The minutes of the previous meeting on 17th March 2014 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Noted:

- Women in Leadership Report – Josh has emailed Charlotte but received no response. Will send to Council email address instead.
- There is no progress yet on the Accreditation Scheme to update Council on. Brian Alcorn has not had chance yet to meet with Ben Ball.
- Regarding joint Facebook account between societies and sports for events information, it was agreed that the website would be the best forum for this rather than creating a Facebook page.

4. Sabbatical Key points

4a. President – Dan Sam

Noted:

- Trustee recruitment – Going well. Very strong candidates and some specialists in the fields of volunteering, sports development, government and democracy.
- Community Engagement – Carholme Community Forum 16th April went well. Discussed new licencing proposal, which if brought in will improve quality of student housing. The downside is that the extra cost will be passed on to students. Need to speak to Eric Pickles before a decision is made regarding this.

Discussed:

- NUS Conference – Request for breakdown on how our delegates voted. SU usually just feeds back locally relevant issues.

Action: Dan Sam to do full breakdown

4b. VP Academic Affairs – Ian Antwi

Noted:

- SU Awards – Invitations all sent and nominees all notified
- Attending meetings and student consultations for blackboard project

4c. VP Activities – Joe Burt

Noted:

- BUCS – Lincoln is 66th with 401 points. Lincoln vs. Derby Cricket next week, good opportunity for more points.
- Men's Squash final in Surrey – Lincoln vs. Birmingham.
- New BUCS funding panel – will choose which teams play next year.
- 303 tickets sold for Activities awards. Drama, Dance and Orchestra will be performing.
- 532 volunteers placed. Deadline for Volunteer Logs to be submitted is Wednesday 30th April. Volunteer Celebration will take place Wednesday 14th May 1pm to 6pm.
- Bi-elections running for Committees to fill spaces

Discussed:

- Freshers' Fayre – sports and societies want to know how to get involved.

Action: Joe Burt to send email to all sports and societies to advise on how to get involved

Discussed:

- Request breakdown of Activities Awards ticket sales. 296 for meal and 7 standing tickets sold

Action: Joe Burt to do a more detailed breakdown

4d. VP Welfare & Community – Brian Alcorn**Noted:**

- Attended Post-graduate Conference – Very informative. Asked to attend Bishop Grosseteste's Talent Awards to be a guest judge. Possibility of doing a joint talent show with BG next year.
- Officer Handover – Went over Ops Plan with Olivia ready for takeover
- Handed out golden tickets for Activities Awards
- NUS Conference – Very informative. Next year's conference will be held in Liverpool again.
- Meeting with Karl McCartney – Early stages but seems he might be willing to work with University, particularly on transport between Lincoln and London
- Oyster Card – Can be used with rail card for 1/3 off travel.

- **Action:** SU to add last month's Sport, Societies and Council Minutes to website

5. Motion on Student Loans Sell-off**Noted:**

- Interest cap on students loans will be removed
- Will continue to work with NUS to ensure that the next generation of loans will be protected.
- Motion has already been passed

Agreed:

**No amendments or speech against
Motion automatically passes**

6. Motion to Amend the Standing Orders Governing Societies Standing Committee Regarding the Required Size of Societies That May Affiliate to the Union**Noted:**

- The current minimum is 15 for a committee to be ratified and this motion is to lower this to 10.

Discussed:

- Societies Council voted unanimously in support as smaller societies often disband as they struggle to get 15 members.
- Is it a drain on SU resources to support small 'friendship groups' who can arguably run themselves without SU help? Would they actually benefit from the extra support?
- Surely the SU is able to recognise the difference between 'friendship groups' and legitimate committees

No amendments**Speech against:**

- Reducing the standing order won't solve the issue of groups disbanding and making 'friendship groups' into committees will be a waste of resources
- Concern that an insurgence of smaller committees who are less in need of support will delay help to larger committees who really need it

Speech for:

- It will give niche committees more of a chance to get established and grow

Agreed:**Voted: The motion passes****NO LONGER QUORATE:****Returned to motions once more voting members had arrived****7. Motion to Prohibit the Use of Zero-hours Contracts****Noted:**

- The Shed are advertising vacancies with zero-hour contracts

Discussed:

- Zero-hour contracts have had lots of bad press recently and lots of employers are rejecting them. Do we want to be embracing them when there is such strong public opinion against them?
- Value of the student loan has already been eroded by inflation. Working on a zero-hour contract often means you don't know when you'll be working or how much will be earning so it's difficult to budget.
- What is the point of the SU putting money into student services when students will suffer as a result of these contracts?
- Entertainment industry often uses zero-hour contracts though as employees are not required at certain times. Having employees there when there is nothing to do is a waste of SU funds.
- If the Shed is run in a way that it is profitable, surely they can afford to offer secure, fixed contracts?
- Students are made aware that the contract is zero-hour so surely they have the option not to apply and isn't any job better than none?
- The recession has created conditions that are good for employers but bad for employees. Surely the SU should be supporting its members?
- It is naïve to think that the flexibility of the contract will work in favour of the employee

Speech Against:

- Zero-hour contracts benefit students as they allow flexibility. For example, employees can have time off during exams, holidays etc.

Speech for Abstention:

- Zero-hour contracts can be exploitative as they tend to work in favour of the employer rather than the employee
- However, within the SU there is a benefit for the employee i.e. the flexibility that it offers, especially during busy times or holidays

Discussed:

- Some employers offer fixed-hour contracts, where the employee is given a set number of hours to do within a year but flexibility of when to do them so they can have time off during exams etc but are still able to calculate how much they will earn throughout the year. Could the Union move more towards this?
- (In response to the Speech for Abstention:) How can you be against zero-hour contracts but support the SU applying them? Is it not possible to have flexibility on a normal contract?
- I don't support zero-hour contracts but I can see how they work within the Union
- During the NUS Conference it was decided that zero-hour contracts could be beneficial to students, if not to ordinary workers.

Action: Dan Sam to explore alternatives to zero-hour contracts

Agreed:

Voted: The motion fails

8. Six Month Strategy

Not discussed as Dan Sam had to leave

9. NUS Black Student Conference

Agreed:

- Council agreed that Ian Antwi can attend.

10. Student Open Session

Noted:

- Charlotte Greenley – Visual presentation following questions about her role and that of her reps.
- Reps all achieved their 'just one thing' and more. The focus for next year will be female representation – must not get complacent.
- Had an amazing year thanks to the efforts of the reps and everyone that they worked with.
- Alex Hall (Gender Neutrals Support) – Planning a trip to Manchester Pride and hope to involve LGBT also. Hoping to network with Sheffield, Leeds and Manchester University regarding the creation of a 'Midlands LGBT Group'. Currently have 21 students who are interested and need funding.

Agreed:

- Relevant paper-work will need to be completed with Brian Alcorn.

Discussed:

- Ben Higgott – Activities Awards 'Dick of the Year Award'. This is an anonymous nomination and can be interpreted as bullying. The award violates SU policies (papers handed to Chair).
- If someone is suffering from depression or any other emotional disorder, this nomination could cause a great deal of distress and be very detrimental to their health.
- There was a Facebook and leaflet campaign to encourage students to vote for a particular student, which seems very malicious.
- As a union we should not be allowing something that promotes bullying, isolation and lad-culture. Particularly when other traditions, such as initiations have been previously banned for this same reason.
- If the award is kept, maybe it should be a self-nomination?
- Full list of nominees was published for everyone to see. Would it be possible to just publish a shortlist?
- The award has been running for several years and exists at other universities
- (In response to this comment) Cannot find any evidence for this award at other universities in the UK. Can someone elaborate?
- Apparently Chester University has this award
- Could the wording be reviewed? I.e. replace the term 'Dick of the Year' for something less offensive?
- If there is a vote in favour of getting rid of the award, will this come into effect this year or next year?

Noted:

- Commendation for Ben Higgott for standing up and promoting this campaign

- Joe Burt apologises on behalf of the Students' Union for any upset caused and the award and nomination process will be reviewed

Action: Joe Burt to look in to this issue further

Noted:

- International Students' Group – Nominated for International Union of the Year and would like to attend the awards

Agreed:

- ISG can attend and SU will finance the trip. ISG to submit a written report

11. Election of Chair of Council 2014-15

Noted:

(Charlotte Greenley temporarily takes the chair)

- Alexandria-Carmen Mbu and Linford Butler nominate themselves for the Chair.
- (Both take to the floor for speech and questions)

Agreed

- Voted by secret ballot: Alexandria-Carmen Mbu is elected as Chair of Council 2014-15

12. Any Other Business

No other business reported

I certify that the above minutes are a true and accurate summary of the meeting held on Monday 28th April 2014, and have been approved by Student Council. These minutes will now be publicly available.

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Name (Chair)

.....
Date