

**Student Council Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**

**18/10/2019, 2pm, Tremough House Boardroom Penryn Campus**

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Apologies**

Present:

SU Education Officer Postgraduate Research (Exeter) – Jamie Cranston

SU Fundraising Officer – Nicola Cowper

SU Inclusivity Officer – Zoe Burden

SU International Officer – Manu Pant

SU Open Officer Exeter – Amelia Banton

SU Sports Officer – Joe Phillips (arrived 3pm)

SU Wellbeing Officer – Tom McIntosh

President Welfare & Inclusivity – Allie Guy **[CHAIR]**

President Exeter – Joe Rigby

President Falmouth – Callie Edwards

President Student Experience – Sarah Redman

In attendance

Representation & Democracy Manager (Exeter) – Hannah Partington (minute taker)

Unfilled/Short-term retired roles:

SU Education Officer Postgraduate Taught (Exeter) – Role not filled

SU Faith Officer – Role not filled

SU Open Officer Falmouth – Role not filled

SU Return to Learning Officer – Role not filled

SU Societies Chair – Role not filled

SU Student Voice Chair – Role not filled

SU Academic Officer (PGR Falmouth) – Role not filled

SU Academic Officer Postgraduate Taught – Role not filled

SU Academic Officer Undergraduate (Falmouth) – Role not filled

Absent with apologies:

SU Education Officer Undergraduate (Exeter) – Parveer Ramana

SU Liberation Chair – Riley Dunk

SU Environment & Ethics Officer – Ellen Monaghan

SU Volunteering Officer – Rhiannon Ackhurst

**Co-option of filled roles onto Council.**

1. Fundraising Officer to officially replace RAD President as full Council member- **PASSED**
2. Wellbeing Officer to become an Executive Officer and full Council member **PASSED**

**Attendees:** 13 (quorate reached if 12 or more)

**Co-option of unfilled roles onto Council**

**Noted:** Student Voice Chair, Societies Officer, and Postgraduate Taught Officer (Exeter) had

all received expressions of interest during the open nomination period. All candidates were invited to give a brief presentation to Council, outlining why they wanted the role, any experience they had etc.

Student Voice Chair

Linus Lampe presented to Council.

Amanda Murphy did not attend.

George Newton did not attend.

Societies Officer

Albert Duker presented to Council.

Charlotte Norridge did not attend.

Noted: Candidates who had not attended were contacted.

Amanda Murphy had a personal emergency and was unable to give apologies. George Newton, no response.

Charlotte Norridge, had been ill.

As not all candidates attended without sending apologies, the Council agreed to put to the vote how best to proceed.

Option one – Vote today on the two seen: 1 vote.

Option two – Extraordinary meeting next week for unseen: 9 votes.

Option three – Next council meeting for all to present: 3 votes.

**Action: Option two was the preferred choice. HP to arrange extraordinary meeting and contact all candidates.**

1. President updates:

**President Falmouth [CE]:**

Big SU Survey. We have contracted an external company to run ‘The Big SU Survey’ about the student experience and will include questions about student perceptions of the Union, how we are performing, how students rate us etc. We select what the questions are from template range and promote completion, then the external company will analyse and provide results to us. Dates tbc.

Reps training: majority now trained with new package, which will be reviewed. Using the newly trained reps will be looking at timetabling and hidden course costs in the first instance and offering general support / drop-ins for SSLG report writing.

Artwork on campus. Now working in partnership with FXPlus on this project.

**Noted:** The SU have engaged Steve Coole back to undertake a full democracy review, which will cover Student Council / Executive Officers / constitution / bye-laws etc. CE will be lead President.

Questions from members:

Is the survey for all students, and how will people access it?

A: It is for all students and there will be email plus social media promotion. CE is exploring incentivising Reps to get the highest % of their course to complete it. Very keen to ensure we have a good completion rate to make sure results are meaningful.

ZB: Inclusivity Officer worked with SV Director last term on the wording for the inclusivity / accessibility section in ROS, and was promised there would be more emphasis in training for Reps to use ROS to flag issues in these areas. Has this happened?

A: Yes, wording updates went in and there is more emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility in Rep training and in the handbook.

**President Exeter [JR]**

Closing the feedback loop. Working with senior managers and academics to get face to face updates in lectures / seminars from module leads following SSLCs / module evaluation etc to inform students of any action taken from feedback given by students / Reps. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Education is supporting this approach.

**Action: Exeter Council members to let JT know if this is / isn’t happening.**

Speak Week will take place in November and The Big SU Survey will launch as part of it. Currently developing the structure of the week but it will include Q&As on hot topics.

Climate Emergency. Working with President Student Experience [SR] on climate emergency response. There is a working group that will be putting a white paper, with a focus on reducing carbon footprint, to Vice-Chancellor’s Executive Group (VCEG) then an action plan will follow. Working on the SU action plan.

Truro Campus. 2nd yrs starting in Cornwall next year for the first time. JR will be spending time up there to start unpacking that experience. Is it the right environment / is it a student campus etc?

FIKA – emotional fitness app available to all Exeter students. Currently testing it in Biosciences to make sure it’s working properly, and with the CSM Rugby team to see how it works with sports teams.

**Noted:** Been involved in hiring the new Pro Vice Chancellor for Cornwall – Dave Hosken, the new Deputy ChO – name tbc and new Vice Chancellor candidates, which is an ongoing process.

ZB: Question: Why is there a different wellbeing app for Exeter?

A: Both apps will run for the year and see which one works better. Fika was developed by Exeter and was originally just going ot be for Devon based students but JR wanted it across the institution, so that’s why they are supporting it too.

**President Student Experience [SR]**

Sustainability: JR focus on strategy / regional development, with SR driving more localised climate emergency activity for example Sustainability Week, which will include a talk from CSMSA on mining & sustainability, Sustainability. Fair which will focus on behaviourial change and raising awareness / grass roots activism and reducing waste.

Green Council: All positions filled with a sub-committee for each area already working with FXPlus on new sandwich suppliers.

Single use cups gone, scheme is under review, catering get rid of single use cups for coffee –Delivered rep training of sustainabilityfood audit with

Campus 2020: New buildings at Penryn are slightly behind schedule. Academic building and the Stannary extension will both be delivered in June 2020.

Fundraising week in early December, with Giving Tuesday (national campaign) as part of it. Legends: Reviewing rewards / hours with a focus group. The top level of awards are being removed to encourage healthy volunteering. 250 hours = Gold and this will be the final award.

Hweatha – choose your day – accepting referrals from services for wellbeing.

Events: Currently having fortnightly meetings with Manager and they are consulting on Graduation Balls / Garden Party now.

**Noted: Any member can contact SR for more information**

Questions

TM: Climate emergency, are the Union engaging with activism groups external to Uni? Eg Extinction Rebellion as had heard it was not allowed to be a society.

A: EM is bringing proposal to next council for Union to support XR in future, so decision will be made here.

ZB: Halloween event, day of the dead theme again doesn’t this cause a problem with relation to cultural sensitivity?

A: Hispanic Society have responded saying they do not find it offensive.

MP: Should the SU acknowledge there could be sensitivity – cultural appropriation – given the inclusivity and EDI issues on campus? SU should publically recognise this is an important issue.

AG: we need to be mindful of our relationship with FXPlus

MP: Happy to work closely with AG.

**Noted:** SU is affiliated with the event through ticket sales but external company (Durty Disco) is running it and FXPlus organising.

**ACTION: ZB / MP / SR / AG to meet outside of Council to discuss further and also develop chance to influence future events.**

**President Welfare & Inclusivity [AG]**

Liberation calendar: Now in place with EDI events, celebrations etc. Black History Month has had great student input and activity. Developed better relations with Streatham staff to ensure better resourcing of events / activity here.

World Mental Health Day: Successful event with welfare services in Upper Stannary, offering free refreshments and chats.

Rep Training: delivered inclusivity and accessibility awareness session.

Hate crime reporting tool: currently there are two in place one is ‘Exeter Speaks Out’ one is ‘Tell Me’, creating an issue as they dilute each other. We need both Universities to agree to get one tool across all campuses. In the short term, Tell Me has had a redesign for relaunch.

RESlife: Has started well with good visibility, competitions, 1 x monthly visit to all sites, with ongoing events and activities.

Social networks: setting up online cross-institutional communities for International student, and Mature / Postgraduate students which are growing in membership.

Voices has a new committee and starting up again with publication due next month.

1. **Executive Officer Updates**

Open Officer Exeter [AB] – has been liaising with JR and Chairs. Ran a successful event for Holocaust memorial day with good turnout but wants to reach beyond own department for future events, so will use Council and Subject Chair networks to help.

International Officer [MP] – MP queried whether she is able, as International Officer, to link with student communities and do events with / for them?

Yes, Maja Ditrtova - SU Campaigns & Events Assistant - is there to support projects and applications to funding.

MP has been contacting cultural societies on campus to try and bring them together for events to make them bigger and better.

Attended the Asian Soc. meet and greet, where there was a request for a Diwali event after reading week. Suggested MP links with liberation officers to work with Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity team in Exeter and stakeholders in Falmouth.

Sports Chair [JP] – Meeting with Samuri to discuss future kit order to increase unity across all club, aiming to develop professionalism across sports.

Have arranged photographers, through MAYN, to be available to document matches on a first come / first served basis. Commissioning a documentary, again through MAYN, about Bottle match.

New “offside collective” instagram account, which will feature player profiles across Clubs. Plans for future include increased advertising of fixtures, and socials, to increase awareness / attendance.

Shared crest – discussions still ongoing. Meeting in 2 weeks to seek approval from Exeter Uni.

**Inclusivity Officer [ZB]**: Ran an inclusivity stall at move in weekend with the main aim of getting students aware of the help that is already available. Had good conversations with students and parents, signposted and calmed worries.

Rebrand of the Individual Learning Plans; currently every student that needs additional support gets an ILP, but it was hard for lecturers to see the plans to be able to support students appropriately. Have worked with Accessibility to change that process with better access. Currently testing new system before roll-out.

Working on plans for Disability Week for Feb 2020. Will include accessible sports day with some external clubs / groups.

Accessibility at Penryn campus is really difficult at the moment, with broken lifts / broken doors / loose flagstones creating multiple issues as well as the building works changing the accessible routes.

**Action: ZB to liaise with AG to highlight any ongoing issues for escalation.**

**PGR Officer Exeter [JC]** Have been attending Doctoral College group meetings, focus on raising concerns about resources available to support students in Cornwall and maintain commitment to peer support scheme.

**Fundraising Officer [NC]** National conference talking about how it works everywhere else – RAD won fundraising group of the year £90k raised last year. FXU is well known on the national scene!

Working to develop how to include more societies with individual fundraising, adopt a charity and encouraging groups and individuals to do it and fundraise for their own societies.

National Giving Week is first week in December, will be holding a Presidents’ quiz for Cool Earth along with ‘give it a go’ at any volunteer project, animal day, environment day etc and then encourage in re-fresh to join up.

Giving Tuesday is national campaign. AB asked if NC had been in touch with Islamic Soc as they are doing a big event next week? **Action: NC will contact ISoc.**

**Wellbeing Officer [TM]** Wellbeing. Work in progress, with Wellbeing and Student Services. Lots of talks about how to integrate AIM. Working to get every member of AIM society to get basic mental health awareness /first aid training. Potential to roll this out to all Clubs / Socs so every group has a trained member, resource is main barrier. The focus is on self-help and to reach lower-lying difficulties to take strain off Wellbeing Service.

Creating a list of contacts within Wellbeing as it is really difficult at the moment to find the right person to contact about specific issues.

Question: JP – how long would the mental health training take? TM – likely to be a condensed version, 1-day training.

MP noted that most groups now have an Inclusivity Officer role or at least a lead member – TM could target these officers in the first instance for training.

1. **Future meetings structures**

It was noted that the Zones structure was passed in the previous year and should therefore continue.

1. **Make A Change**

6.1. [Only allow students to be elected for NUS National Conference](https://www.thesu.org.uk/change/?idea=165#idea165) (HP to update)

VOTE: Unanimous vote against update make a change

6.2. [Install air conditioner or fans in the treetops space on Falmouth Campus](https://www.thesu.org.uk/change/?idea=164#idea164) (CE to update)

VOTE: Council vote to allocate this to SR as an action to chase. PASSED

6.3. [Replace single use ‘bargain bowls’ in Stannary with crockery](https://www.thesu.org.uk/change/?idea=168#idea168) (SR to update)

SR – they have already been replaced – so issue is CLOSED

6.4. [More sheltered green spaces on campus](https://www.thesu.org.uk/change/?idea=161#idea161) (SR to update)

SR – look to include this as part of discussions in the Exeter campus 2030 strategy PASSED

6.5. [Make Ecosia the default search engine](https://www.thesu.org.uk/change/?idea=160#idea160) (SR to update)

SR – The issue is Ecosia are good at data management after one month of use, but in the first month data is sold and is untrackable so Unis will not agree to implementing this change. SR to get official response to this.

Council were asked to vote on whether SR has done everything she can on this?: VOTE unanimous YES so issue to be CLOSED with official response from Unis.

566. [Move accessibility services to a more accessible location](https://www.thesu.org.uk/change/?idea=171#idea171) (AG to update)

Will go to Liberation Committee for discussion first before coming back to Council

1. **Motions**

None received.

1. **Additional Members for Elections & Democracy Committee**

It is a requirement to have two Executive Officers as members of the Elections and Democracy Committee, in addition to the Student Voice Chair who chairs that meeting. See [Bye-law 15:FXU Elections & Democracy](https://www.thesu.org.uk/pageassets/about/importantdocuments/FXU-Bye-Laws-July-2018.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0uletBBag6yxC_0bWXgqCyXTRSfYAXzIcB8ZV2BAJavWvPZssItRPC2kY) committee for further information.

ACTION: Officers who are interested in taking on the role to contact the Rep & Dem Manager before 25/10/19.

1. **AOB**

ZB: Request for more accessible building / room to be used in future for Council meetings.

1. **Date and time of next meeting**

07/11/2019 – venue tbc