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| UELLOGO | **Student Council**  5th |

**Minutes: 04.12.12**

4 December 2012

1. **Apologies for absence**

Received from Denise Iwuoha.

1. **Minutes of Student Council for accuracy and ratification.**

This item was not considered as the meeting was not quorate.

1. **Matters arising from the minutes**
   1. 4C Sabuj commented that the meeting was with the Registrar of RDBS and Combined he did not attend the meeting with Hani, but with Imran instead.
   2. 4d Sabuj said that the meeting was Academic Board not with ADI Dean, he also informed that Denise is dealing with the matter at the moment.
   3. Sabuj reported that, in his opinion, the Students’ Union (UELSU) could expand number of activities in view that appropriate budgets are available. He invited all members to organise more activities.
   4. Andreas informed that Hellenic Cypriot society (HCS) was planning event on Saturday and asked all for support.
   5. Seyi reported organising a Xmas party, she thought that there is need to increase awareness about the Students’ Union. She also said that planning for other events in Semester B 2012/13 (i.e. Easter Ball) would be a better way to spend available in 2012/13 money.
   6. Sabuj commented that in Semester B 2011/12 Summer Ball was cancelled and said that he wanted to organise a Xmas party ‘to say thanks on behalf of Students’ Union.’
   7. Seyi suggested working ‘as a whole’, creating a ‘buzz’ and ‘going for a bang’: sending emails, flyers. Sabuj explained that the party he was talking about was a party for Council members on 14/12/12.
   8. Stacy added that also there was an idea to organise a Xmas party for students parents, however, due to difficulties in coordinating the party it was cancelled.
   9. Student informed that with students contributionthe UELSU was ‘impacting positively our lives’. He said that societies have strong connections with UELSU while some members see societies as separate from UELSU. He suggested having few society representatives within the Council.
   10. Andreas commented that organisation of Xmas party was a last moment event. He said ‘there are seats still available’ for the event HSC was organising. Andreas suggested using events to promote UELSU.
   11. Sabuj thanked Andreas for invitation and said that he could not attend the events. Other members informed that they cannot attend/attend late on the date mentioned by Sabuj.
   12. Chair informed that Miles (Societies and Cultural Activities Coordinator) send an email regarding UEL Xmas party on 10/12/12. However, not every councillor was aware. Imran commented that the party was not UELSU event. Sabuj said that perhaps the event was organised by one of the societies. Student commented that there were communication issues as councillors were not aware
   13. Seyi proposed that society organisers should create a buzz re the party. Imran supported the proposal and suggested to bring it to the Societies Committee.
2. **Officers Reports and question time. (all written, Sabuj’s oral)**
   1. Stacy Hall (see attached)  
      Questions and comments
      1. Daniel asked about UEL policy re children on campus. Stacy replied that policy was outdated and should be changed (one of her first priorities).
      2. Seyi informed that students who require breastfeeding facilities on campus were spotted in the places not suitable for breastfeeding**.** Stacy said that she tried to find the room on campus but it took a while and quite few members of staff were dealing with her enquiry. Finally she was able to locate the room but it was a remote unlocked room, with unpleasant smell and some equipment stored in the room. Stacy said gaps in services, facilities and support for students parentswould be brought to the attention of the Student Experience department .
      3. Stacy asked Student Parent Officer (SPO) who was present at the meeting about unsuccessful attempts of Denise to contact her. SPO replied that it was during summer vacation.
   2. Hani (see attached)  
      Questions and Comments
      1. Andreas informed that he has spoken to Jacqui Mitchell (UCU) and said that workload of the UEL tutors has increased, they also need to deal with increased number of appeals. UEL students and staff should work in less stressful environment, UCU and UELSU should act together.
      2. Answering question Hani said that there were no issues with attendance in Stratford. Student asked about large number of withdrawals (170) at the HSB School. Hani replied that out of 170 more than 100 students were not enrolled and around 70 were deregistered and withdrawn. Andreas brought own case saying that 2 warning emails were issued incorrectly: first during the strike and second when tutor was not able to attend. The system seem does not work properly. Andreas added that allowed number of missed sessions (3) was too small.
      3. Seyi said that attendance policy system was ineffective. All parties required to work on it and to be involved in implementing the policy. Seyi also said that feedback given during marking of students’ work was not indicating why students’ work was marked at certain level. Hani commented that issues re feedback were raised at the Learning committee and it was recorded in the minutes.
   3. Imran (see attached)  
      Questions and comments
      1. Seyi asked whether there is a Freshers week in February 2013. Daniel replied that as per Miles’s email Re-Freshers fairs take place 5/12/12 in Docklands and 7/12/12 in Stratford.
   4. Sabuj (oral)

Thanked all for their hard work and welcomed new Council members.

* + 1. Sabuj said that he has attended Board of Governors and handed out student petition and made a speech on behalf of the group of the students .
    2. Few months ago there were issues with pay of PhD students. HR confirmed that students were paid £50 per lesson, however, they were not getting paid for preparation and marking, so Sabuj raised that issue and there is a progress.
    3. Further Sabuj gave info on his involvement in Learning and Teaching campaign. Part of that would be a survey which would help to make a real change for students (handed out).
    4. European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) which was free for students before now cost £200. Sabuj raised the issue with VCG. He met Dusty Amroliwala (Pro Vice-Chancellor) and Dusty confirmed that it was in pans to make ECDL free for students.
    5. Academic caseworkers are under pressure at UELSU due to increased number of enquiries. Sabuj asked whether UEL could provide an additional funding for an Academic Caseworker at UELSU. UEL agreed
    6. Sabuj informed that a campaign was planned to promote elections and general meeting.
    7. The campaign re Costa and Starbucks (outlets on campus). In Sabuj’s opinion, the outlets should employ more students and offer fair prices, the main concern was, however, ‘unfriendly staff behaviour’. Student Parent Officer informed that there were student complains about slow service, limited choice etc. Andreas said that the minimum charge for the card payments was high and given examples from other universities where minimum payment for card transactions was £2.50. The staff at the outlets tried to stop distribution of Greek coffee during event on campus. This type of coffee was not on sale at the outlets and HSC was offering it for free. In addition other companies such as Domino Pizza were allowed to sell their products during events. Daniel reported that despite high prices alternatives were available on campus ie tea for £0.90 and sandwiches from John Smith shop. Sowerie (?) suggested to collected feedback from people directly involved, relay that feedback to the outlet managers and then give them a reasonable amount of time to make the changes. Sabuj explained that that was his approach too.
    8. Seyi reported that canteen microwaves were not available to the students to warm up their food. Sabuj agreed that facilities should be provided to meet this type of demand and informed that microwaves were available to use for students in UELSU Stratford offices.

1. AOB
   1. Daniel has given example from AVA when UEL facilities were understaffed. He said that staff At AVA (Fred) was assisting with printing jobs for students during his lunch break. Hiring a new member of staff would be a solution to the problem, in his opinion. Sabuj recommended that Daniel should contact Stacy.
   2. Seyi said that Re-Fresehrs in February would be fantastic, however, there were normally fewer companies involved and less activities available to students. Imran commented that fewer students starting in February, it is more about giving societies opportunities to recruit new members. Student Parent Officer said that a better promotion of the Re- Freshers Fair would be necessary, Seyi added that UELSU should invite more external organisations and get assistance from the UEL. Sabuj suggested carrying out relevant surveys and organising a Refreshers Party.
2. Date of the next meeting 14/2/12, 17:00-19:00, room TBC