**Student Council meeting minutes**

**16th October 2017**

Agenda item:

3 a – Introduction from Elham and thanking members for attending. Proceeded to go through his action plan point by point. Mentions freshers events, AC working on BHM and SR working IW. Communications should be updated regularly about what is going on with the SU. All minutes that are not confidential should be posted online. Ensure that the chair of the board of trustee should go back to the SU President. Create a working group for PT officers to get a wider perspective of what students want. Visited Queen Mary’s and was impressed with the space. David Tyndall might give all the space in Stratford Dome for the SU, space for a shop, social study. Spoken to students regarding benefits of part time students. Ensuring they have items such as tablets, hub advise on housing. Ensuring all students are treated equally whether full time or part time. Campaign to know your officer, know your academic advisor to increase the support available to students. University change from school to college, so this campaign will help. Question from Chris, how is the tablet funded for FT and PT students? Students on PT courses pay half the fee for the year they are studying. They pay the same fees in respect of the modules and time spent at University. FT students don’t need to pay council tax, but that letter isn’t provided for PT students. Wanting to change the policy for the new students coming forward. The University is stopping the free tablets from next year anyway. The officers have spoken with NC regarding this issue. Feedback was 70% of students wanted books instead of tablets. Antonia raised the issue that students who pay their fees upfront don’t get tablets regardless. Also students currently don’t have the tablet as it is. Ayaan suggests to lobby the university to either get the bursary back or get tablets. Elham wants the bursary to be a cash one rather than one used in John Smiths. The university need an alternative. AC believes PT students should get a status letter regardless. A discussion going forward specifically about the stopping of the tablet distribution. Elham points out that there is free printing if students need to print module guides. Current students should have the opportunity. The benefits of having a tablet outweigh the use of books (which can be accessed from the library). It may be worth collecting new data with a new survey.

3 b – thanking members for attendance. As a team, they have done very well in the last 3 months. Lobby with the uni to refurbish Stratford. Getting positive feedback about social space from the Dome. Carpet, furniture change. All credit across the whole team for combined effort. Free printing facilities, still some connectivity issue and sourcing branded paper from businesses to reduce the outlay from the SU. Free printing available via USB. Multi faith prayer room outstanding from previous year due to no progress on university funding. Anticipate completing by April 2018. Point 4, sorting out the IT issues with David Tyndall. Helping SR with IW and planning know your officer campaign with EP. Looking to enable PT officers and keep constant communication to continue working together. Kamrul Hasan feels as a PT officer there was no communications from the SU and wants to know why. AM apologises for this, but has raised his concerns with the CEO to ensure that e-mails were sent out. Recommended to DCEO(O) that PT officers should be invited to freshers planning. It will take time to improve the communications channels and hoping to have that within 1 month. Will speak to the CEO regarding information coming through. Another question, why isn’t there any PT officer training that has taken place, including finance. MA spoke with the CEO to ensure the website is up to date with roles and responsibilities. Another meeting to possibly be arranged. Antonia notes that this is a recurring issue that has lasted for atleast 4 years. The meetings shouldn’t only be student council, there should be training and other regular meetings. Exec meeting to take place and they will plan something more substantial. EP notes that training will be taking place before the November meeting, but also says that more regular meetings are coming, following on from the training and busy first few months. Questions from Chris, was there training regarding how to work alongside other officers. No specific training was relevant for PT officers. AC agrees with the points raised and within the executive team/leadership will draw up a plan, and encourages the PT officers to bring forward their ideas. Planning a social by the end of the month. Question; has the free printing been communicated to students and are you aware of the e-mail from the university telling students how to print. EP reiterated that the printing will be done by USB. If the point says ‘completed’ everything should be done and ready to go. No e-mail sent by the SU to counter the point raised by the university. Question, internet getting worse including at Docklands. Situation improving from a 6 minute log in, down to 2 minute, and only aware of the Stratford issue.

3 c – thanking members for attending. Apologies for not sending beforehand but will present verbally. Team achievements – free printing, boat parties, lecture shout outs. Another project is IW for the diversity of the student body. 6th – 10th November, planning done. Wants to set up a committee to include programme reps and deans for immediate feedback. Working with CFSS to improve employability and practical insight to their studies. No questions.

3 d – verbal update, action plan is still a work in progress. Worked on welcome week despite coming in late and the stage was already at implementation from the previous team. Had to fight to get the procedures correct, but was happy with the support from the team she got. Free printing facilities, waiting for a mac address, being done by IT, but data protection issues stopping the connectivity issues to ensure as many students can use it. Staff can use it, but will be discouraged. 75% functionality, looking for completion date of end of October. Helping PT officer with BHM, congratulations to Christopher who helped off the skeleton from AC. Provided time resource. Running a mental health campaign, 180 surveys back from WMHD. Suggest Kamrul should work closely with herself on ethical issues that will sit within the welfare remit. Sometimes there are differences in approach from officers, but that PT officers should approach the relevant officer. Agrees with PT and student council training ASAP. Left the SU dome project with EP and MA and wanting to get Docklands social space. Hub negotiations at 65% to turn it into a 24 hour opening time. Looking at catering options on campus, look to collect data to back up the point. Negotiating around the “fab buy”. Spending the next few months working on other manifesto commitments including getting labs for her schools. Will get action plan published asap once filled out. Kamrul question regarding the timing of the agenda being sent out. Ideally will be sent out around a week before to circulate and give members enough time to read the papers. Special thanks to Antonia, Anastasia, Tangina, Ayaan, Swasti for engaging with BHM events who have been coming. Aizaz stated that its difficult to help with the events without training, but has been helping out with IW for Swasti. **ACTION** training to be organised as soon as possible. Every officer has the opportunity to help with events and can attend if possible without necessarily self-defining. Social to be arranged too. Kamrul states that a social is good, but training is essential including budgets, campaign planning and remits. Officers are there to assist with the execution of campaigns, but the PT officer needs to take the lead.

3 e – verbal update. Training since they started, and learnt that other SU’s have student engagement issues too. Bringing in more equipment for school, spoke with the Dean Hassan Abdalla. Speaking with Simon to sort out the best course of action to distribute amongst both schools. Speak with programme reps and module leaders. Local trips – coming to an agreement with the Uni. More festivals and opportunities – speaking with module leaders to let students know of the space they have to use. ADI festival to be arranged for the end of the year, date tbc. Involve students from artistic background, dance, moving image, photography so that its not exclusive to ADI students. Bringing back points system for societies, to create fun competition. Bronze, silver, gold prizes and certificates. Either cash prizes or fun trips. Officer blog – working on a project for all officers for producing a blog. Keeping promise for vibrant and transparent SU. Green impact – taking a lead to help keep UELSU green. Will mean a lot to students who care about these issues. Question – when will societies be provided with the full and updated list to ensure that information is kept up to date and communication being sent out in good time. Issue can be raised in the societies assembly, EP suggested that societies should cc Tangina into e-mails to monitor what the delay in responses is. Weekly meetings to be had with the societies coordinator. Question from Chris; create a meeting page so that students know what meetings are taking place and circulate amongst other societies. Information all to be updated ASAP. Currently around 25 societies.

4 a – Chris to run for chair, Aizaz to run for vice-chair. Speech given by both candidates.

6 votes for Chris, none against or abstentions.

6 votes for Aizaz.

4 b – Speech for, Antonia

Speech against, none

Vote for, 5

Against, none

Abstain, none

4 c – UELSU and Brexit – speech for, Antonia

speech against, none

Vote for, 5

Against, none

Abstain, none

4 d – UELSU for a free, united and demilitarise Cyprus

speech against, none

Open discussion about the background and context

Vote for, 5

Against, none

Abstain, none

4 e – University restructure – speech for, Farooq

speech against,

Open discussion about the background and context and clarifying what the student council want to happen pre-emptively should the University want to restructure

Vote for, 5

Against, none

Abstain, none

MA declared the conflict of interest on behalf of the whole executive team.

5 – Any other business

Elham, suggesting that officers should all meet up in between student council on a monthly basis.

Ayaan, by next meeting student council training should take place. E-mails to be sent out 2 weeks before.

Mojahar, could there be any budget set aside for refreshments, the budget to be presented to the next school council meeting.

Kamrul, to table an item about badge and clothing online.

Aizaz, question about whether the printing will be b&w or colour. Can print in both. Why is there no a3 printing, that will be adjusted in due time following the connectivity issues being sorted out. Contact either reception for replenishing paper.

Electronic vote to take place to decide the date for the meeting.

General Meeting date is set

Minutes to be sent out within a week of the meeting.