

AU Council

Tuesday 3rd October 2017, 4.30pm – 6pm

Attending: Caitlin O'Neill (Sports Officer, CON); Vicky Dean (VD); Laura Huntenburg (LH); Matt Thompson (MT); Osaro Otobo (President, OO); Jennie Watts (Welfare & Community Officer, JW)

1. Welcome

CON welcomed AU Presidents to their first AU Council meeting of the year.

2. Voting on Tour

CON asked for thoughts on the circulated presentation for Tour 2018. A president said they would like to stay with I Love Tour; two presidents then added they had bad experiences and would prefer to use Sports Fest.

AU Council voted on tour providers for 2018, I Love Tour received 4 votes and Sports Fest received 18 votes. CON will contact Sports Fest to progress Tour; adding that teams can do their own tour with I Love Tour if they would prefer.

3. Presidents Rep & Members Rep

The format of the AU Exec has changed this year and the President Rep and Members Rep roles are currently vacant. An emergency meeting will be held on 13th October to elect both of these positions. CON will circulate details of both positions to AU members.

4. Recruitment Feedback

LH and CON asked presidents to work in small groups to review how the AU fair went and how they have found recruitment and taster sessions to date.

AU Fair Feedback

- Layout was poor, the plan circulated was different to how the marquee was set up on the day. Many clubs were moving themselves to be more visible. VD said the marquee arrived with the door in a different place to where it was expected to be.
- Clubs were only supposed to have a couple of people on their stall, however many clubs had a lot of people in attendance.
- Fewer first years than in previous years.

Taster Sessions

- Basketball asked to be given a slot they can play in, over the last 3 years they have not had a slot where they can actually play. Times were also changed at short notice and few first years turned up.

- Second taster session was cancelled at short notice to host the roller disco, which affected the club a lot.
- Teams affected by the membership fee changes due to being a secondary sport, meaning 1 training session a week costs them an additional £60.
- Teams find it expensive to play sports at Hull University, as most clubs have members who play more than one sport.
- Students who cannot afford to pay more may have to choose which sport to be involved with, which reduces representation for the University in competitions.
- Rugby Union said the fees charged at Hull are a lot cheaper than at other universities. LH said costs do vary between sports when compared with other universities.
- International students join teams but do not want to pay for a full year membership or sports pass. CON said this is being looked into.
- Mountaineering have tripled their number of members by holding a free session so people interested in joining could try it first. The club took a financial hit to host this, but now have around 100 members, compared to 30 last year.

LH asked presidents to speak to their committees about how recruitment has gone and provide feedback to ensure improvements are made for September 2018.

5. Introduction – Laura Huntenburg, Sports Development Officer

LH explained her role as Club Development Officer at the University and the support she can offer clubs with governance, compliance, discipline and safeguarding. LH also helps CON with any club development, sponsorship or finance issues. LH can also help clubs to contact their National Governing Body (NGB), many already pay memberships to their NGB.

LH and CON will be launching a club accreditation programme in the coming weeks.

6. League & BUCS

VC advised that BUCS fixtures should be available online this week, with match packs available for collection from Monday lunch time. Requests for bus bookings must be received before Monday lunch time.

7. Game of the Week

CON asked Presidents to let her or the AU Secretary & Communications Officer know of any fixtures teams would like to be promoted.

8. Introduction – Matt Thompson & questions for SFC

MT presented changes taking place at the Sports Centre, the old gym facility has now been demolished; once the new sports hall is completed it will be one of the largest at universities in England. Outdoor clubs are now using a £3.6m complex and sports pavilion with new changing rooms and positive feedback has been received so far. MT added that a more formalised training time request system has worked well and allowed space and sessions to be reallocated. Due to the redevelopment of the sports centre, the University have sent some clubs off site for training, at a cost of around £16k.

Club memberships have also changed, MT has worked with the AU over the last year to set up a new arrangement which has the option to be amended. MT added there has been no price increase for indoor clubs, but more training times have been allocated to offer better value for money. MT acknowledged there have been concerns around paying more to play a second sport.

Every Monday MT will be involved in Team Talk sessions, where clubs can book via Event Brite to raise their concerns and ask for support. CON will circulate the details of sessions.

MT asked the AU for their questions.

- A student said some of their previous members who now study elsewhere have said they receive more training hours for the same prices charged at Hull. MT advised Hull are going through a transitional phase and currently have 1 sports hall; adding that the average training sessions costs a student around 38p. MT added that the University will still be taking a financial hit despite the sports pass changes.
- A student raised concerns over the increased sports pass and gym fees, adding that the current facility is not worth the price and asked whether passes could be discounted for this year.
- International students who are in Hull for part of the year currently have to pay for a full year; MT said work is ongoing to set up a semester long membership. A president added that students are missing out on playing competitive sports in the time it's taking to set up the reduced membership. MT advised that there is a cut off point for people to buy memberships by.
- Men's Basketball have a session on Monday at 5pm, but they did not use it, another team waited around as they'd like to be able to train where they play matches. MT said timings are allocated fairly, but the SFC are unable to check whether sessions are being used.
- How can a club be charged the same for the sports pass regardless of whether they are allocated 1 hour or 12 hours per week? MT said allocation is based on membership, it would not be practical for larger clubs to have less training hours.
- Restricting clubs to training on 1 day at a set time can mean students who are unable to attend training sessions cannot join that team. MT said once the expansion is complete, more training slots will be available.
- When will the cost of sport be considered too expensive? MT said this would follow a sector wide analysis of the cost of sport and sustainability, adding that Hull still have low prices.
- One club get up early to use training space early in the day when it is available, as they were not given additional training hours despite having more teams within the club.
- A president suggested potentially freeing up their slot, as due to low attendance they are looking to train elsewhere.

Presidents asked CON if it would be possible to run a campaign regarding the sports pass, with the ideal outcome being a return to the system used previously where students bought one sports pass for use in all sports. CON asked presidents to speak to their members and provide feedback.

9. Any Other Business

The Movember Student Ambassador for the University of Hull will be participating in Movember and hosting fundraising events across the year, including charity club nights, to raise money for the cancer and men's mental health charity. Harry asked teams who wish to be involved in the events to contact him via the Hull Uni Movember page on Facebook.