



EDUCATION ZONE MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2019,
MEETING ROOM 3, STUDENT CENTRAL, 1pm.

Attending:

Isobel Hall (IH)
Charlotte Durham (CD)
Rosie Russell (RR)
Saalo Sparkes (SSp)
Sanaa Sabir (SSa)
Miguel Beedle (MB)

Fran Trzeciak (FT, secretary)

Apologies received from Lee Pearson (LP), Lee Tilling (LT) and Gavin Zhongxiaocho Gong (GZG).

1. Union Council Preparation

IH opened the discussion of LT's motion to mandate the presidents to lobby the University to move graduation back to City Hall from the new proposed location of the Bonus Arena. She asked for opinions from the part-time officers and faculty reps.

The following discussion was lively.

RR drew attention to the accessibility issues which will take City Hall two years to fix. She emphasised the importance of having an event which was completely accessible for all.

MB stated he supported LT's motion as the University had not consulted with students on this issue.

SSp suggested it was a shame the Bonus Arena was so far from the town centre, severing the link between the local population and the University which a visible graduation provided.

Other members of the Exec referred to the fact the hat throw will still take place in Victoria Square. Ultimately the Exec agreed that this was positive, the primary concern ought to be accessibility and retaining as much tradition as possible within these parameters. The Exec remained split over the way they will vote.

IH suggested an amendment: that the Union should lobby the University to return graduation to City Hall only once it has met accessibility requirements. The exec were broadly in agreement that this was a good idea.


2. PTO Written Objectives Presented

Faculty Rep for Science and Engineering (SSa)

SSa is organising a FSE careers and employability week. This will consist of CV, interview and skills workshops and subject specific guest speakers and potential employers. This week will happen in collaboration with the careers team. The rest of the Exec agreed to help promote this event.

RR is supporting IH and the Education Co-ordinators in reviewing how postgraduate students' academic interests are represented. She is promoting a survey on this question.

CD is currently working to provide housing for postgraduate students who are between contracts in the summer. This provision already exists but is not widely publicised. She is seeking to publicise this provision further in collaboration with



the University. She raised the issue that the University is concerned about completion rates amongst postgraduate students: the insecure housing many students deal with at the end of their degree may well contribute to this. SSp raised a concern that this summer housing may be more expensive than housing in the rest of the year: CD stated she would seek clarity on this.

SSp discussed his priorities. He is looking at communal space in the FHS to ensure equal provision in all areas. He is also working to lobby the University on assessment. He stated he has paused work in this area as the University is conducting their own review of assessment. Once this is complete he will work with them to ensure the outcome best reflects student's priorities.

3. Elections Planning

IH asked PTOs if they would be comfortable promoting their roles to try and ensure sufficient candidates stand. There was some concern about the implications of Osaro's governance referendum, which would mean PTOs no longer have a vote on Union Council. The Exec felt they didn't want to mislead candidates about the nature of the role. They also recognised IH's concern about an empty Education Exec. They agreed to promote the role, but refrain from being too specific about the requirements of the role in relation to Union Council.

4. Panopto Lecture Recording

This issue was postponed.

5. AOB

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at approximately 2.20pm.