

HULL UNIVERSITY UNION

UNION COUNCIL MINUTES Monday 23 April 2018 – Meeting Room 1, 6:30pm

Attendance

First Name	Surname	Position	Attendance					
			16/10	13/11	04/12	19/02	19/03	23/04
Student Officers								
Osaro	Otobo	President						
Salman	Anwar	Education Officer						
Jennie	Watts	Welfare & Community Officer						
Caitlin	O'Neill	Sports Officer				Resigned		
Governance Zone								
Kym	Cardona	Councillor for Scrutiny						
Welfare & Community Zone								
Tom	Barnes	LINKS Officer			Thomas Gwilliam	Matthew Ward	Rory Hamill	Rory Hamill
Connor	Massey	LGBT+ Officer (Role share)				Resigned		
Georgina	Baulch					Resigned		
Rayan	Shipton	LGBT+ Officer						
Hayley	Hatton	Trans* Representative						
Maria	Majekodunmi	BAME Officer						
Jacqueline	Gomes-Neves	Women's Officer						
Jessica	Clunan	Disabled Students Officer						
Ruth	Williams	Environment and Ethics Officer						
Jordan	Navarro	Councillor for Scrutiny – Welfare & Community						
Education Zone								
Ashley	Pattison	Mature Students Officer					Resigned	
Adam	Clifton	Part-time Students Officer						
Lauren	Williams	Postgraduate Taught Officer						
Rebecca	Devine	Postgraduate Research Officer						
Stefan	Caluser	International Students Officer						

Steven	Storey	Faculty Rep Faculty of Science and Engineering						
Katie	Hobson	Faculty Rep FACE						
Amelia	Smallwood	Faculty Rep Faculty of Health Sciences						
Michael	Howe	Faculty Rep Business, Law and Politics	N/A				Resigned	
Activities Zone								
Rayne	Goddard	Chair SEC						
Megan Connah	Hammell (MH) Thompson (CT)	Media Representative		MH	CT	MH	MH	MH
Tom	McNamara	Chair RAG						
Katie	Wilkie	Societies Council Rep	N/A					
Alex	Fynney	Councillor for Scrutiny - Activities			Resigned			
Sports Zone								
Natasha	Wilson	AU Secretary & Communications Officer						
Maisie	Loggie	AU Members' Rep						
Nick	Wright	AU Presidents' Rep						

In attendance:

Nicole Steele, Student Voice Manager (SVM)

Liz Pearce, Membership Services Director (MSD)

Emily Normington, Executive Support Co-ordinator (ESC, Minutes)

Jess Clunan (Disabled Students Officer, JC) was elected as Deputy Chair.

1. **Adoption of Agenda**
The agenda was adopted.
2. **Apologies for absence (for acceptance)**
None received.
3. **Minutes for previous meeting (to note) (Paper A)**
The minutes were approved as a correct record.
4. **Student Officer Reports (Paper B)**
 - 4.1 **President**
Taken as read.
 - 4.2 **Education Officer (No report submitted)**
Taken as read.
 - 4.3 **Welfare & Community Officer**
Taken as read.
5. **Zone Reports (Paper C)**
 - 5.1 **Governance Zone**
Taken as read.

5.2 Education Zone (no report submitted)

Taken as read.

5.3 Activities Zone

Taken as read.

5.4 Welfare & Community Zone

Taken as read.

5.5 Sports Zone (no report submitted)

Taken as read.

6. Breastfeeding Policy (Paper D)

Jennie Watts (Welfare & Community Officer, JW) summarised the purpose of the policy. Maisie Loggie (AU Members Rep, ML) asked what breastfeeding accreditation is; JW clarified that accreditation means HUU would be recognised as a safe, breastfeeding friendly place.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. Zero Tolerance Policy (Paper E)

JW summarised the policy, noting that a line regarding potential consequences requires removal.

The motion was passed, with 13 votes for, none against and no abstentions.

8. New General Business**7.1 M.1718-7 Motion to improve democracy within the union (Paper F)**

Benedict Flexen (Motion Proposer, BF) presented the motion proposing that future motions should contain countermotions for issues brought to Union Council, therefore enabling Council members to vote on both motions to agree a stance.

Rayne Goddard (Chair SEC, RG) queried who would write the counter motion, noting that this approach would lengthen Union Council meetings and force a stance. BF said the motion would be for the exact opposite to that proposed, drafted by an impartial staff member.

Nick Wright (AU Presidents' Rep, NW) said in the example of recent strike action, HUU had adopted a stance prior to Union Council meeting. BF clarified that the change would not apply to all motions, only to those asking for an official stance or opinion. Tom McNamara (Chair RAG, TM) asked if there is an amendment to add a definition to the motion specifying which motions would be impacted; the motion was seconded and received 10 votes in favour, none against and 3 abstentions. Amendment passed.

SA said counter motions would extend Union Council meetings, adding that motions should be proposed by students who are passionate about a subject and not for the sake of bureaucracy. SA suggested that BF participates in aspects of the upcoming governance review. BF was unaware of the pending review and showed willing to be involved.

Edward Towers (ET) said motions can be changed by Union Council to change debates and outcomes via amendments.

Lauren Williams (Postgraduate Taught Officer, LW) asked what would happen if both motions were not passed; Osaro Otobo (President, OO) queried whether motions

should be neutral in these instances. OO added that Union Council are elected to act in the best interests of students; JW added that the Student Officer team must represent all students at the University of Hull in their decisions. Hayley Hatton (Trans* Representative) asked what other motions in recent years would have benefitted from this; RG suggested the NUS referendum and recent strike action. Steven Storey (Faculty Representative for Science & Engineering, SS) agreed that students proposing motions must be passionate, with students electing officers to make these decisions. NW highlighted that staff writing countermotions would take up staff time and would not necessarily lead to accurate or passionate motions and debate.

The motion received no votes in favour, 8 votes against and 5 abstentions; motion not passed.

7.2 M.1718-8 Motion to amend the AU Club Constitution in regards to the submission of yearly budgets (Paper G)

NW presented the motion, noting that 7 AU clubs have a collective debt of £39k, some of which is historic. The motion would add a clause to the AU constitution for clubs to submit their expected income and expenditure for the year ahead; restrictions would be imposed if this was not complied with.

SS queried how meaningful budgets would be submitted; NW said clubs can access previous year's club accounts and have a vague idea on their membership numbers each year. NW would expect costs for transport, competition fees, facility hire, coaching and kit to be disclosed, alongside sponsorship, fundraising and membership income. Maisie Loggie (AU Members Rep, ML) said this change would be positive and help committees understand their finances. OO said people take up committee roles, without being aware of club funds.

RG queried whether any restrictions or austerity measures would be applied to clubs in large debt to help reduce their debt; NW would expect clubs to attempt to reduce debt annually with support from HUU staff. Katie Wilkie (Societies Council Rep, KW) agreed with the proposal, which could be beneficial for societies too.

SS asked whether two weeks into semester 1 allows enough time for budgets to be compiled; NW said work on the budget can start as soon as committee members are elected during semester 2 of the previous year. JC noted that after the first year of this clause being in place, future committees would have a budget to work with and update going forward. RG suggested sharing standardised costs such as minibus/coach hire with committees to help them assess their upfront costs. NW said these costs are available from the Sports & Societies Co-ordinator.

The motion was voted on, receiving 11 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 1 abstention (NW, proposer, did not vote on this motion). The motion passed.

7.3 M. 1718-9 Motion to amend SO 4002 in regards to the AU Executive Committee (Paper H)

NW presented the motion, providing context behind the proposed move to have 4 appointed AU Exec members, plus two elected Councillors for Scrutiny. The 4 roles would be Members Rep, AU Secretary, Participation & Inclusivity and Non-BUCS Rep; these roles would ensure required tasks are completed. SS clarified that the Sports Zone had been amended last year; NW said the zone had been reduced to 3 members, which did not meet requirements and increased the workload on those individuals.

ML added that selection reiterates the importance of roles and will attract students who are put off by the election process.

LW queried whether the candidates would be selected using set criteria which would be advertised throughout the AU; NW advised that criteria would be agreed, with the roles being widely promoted. JC proposed an amendment to include *'The criteria for selection will be decided by the panel members prior to advertisement of roles in line with role descriptions.'* The amendment was passed with 12 votes for, none against and no abstention (NW did not vote).

Danny Ingram (Councillor for Scrutiny Elect, DI) questioned whether removing the election of the AU Exec would be unrepresentative and hinder student engagement; NW said over 3,000 students play sport and must have representation on Union Council to fill these roles. SS said Faculty Representatives are selected due to these roles requiring people who are keen to fulfil their duties in post. JC added that roles can be co-opted at Union Council meetings, which does not require a campus wide election. Megan Hammell (Media Representative, MH) said media receives many nominations for roles that were previously difficult to fill via elections. NW clarified that applicants for the roles would be interviewed by HUU and University staff, in addition to some current AU Exec members. RG noted that continuing to elect these roles is not feasible, due to the roles currently being vacant for 2018/19.

The motion was voted in parts; firstly a move to roles and an increase to 4 members; 12 votes for, none against and no abstentions (NW did not vote). Part of motion passed. The motion in full, including amendment passed, with 12 votes in favour.

7.4 M. 1718-10 Motion to amend SOs 1001, 2001, 3001, 4001 and 5001 relating to the Student Officers (Paper I)

TM handed Chair responsibility to JC for this item due to being a seconder on this motion.

JW summarised the reason behind a change of role title for Student Officers, to 'President of'; clarifying that the President role would be 'President of the Students' Union'. RG queried why this has not been done previously; SA advised the decision has been taken based on the experience of officers this year.

There were 13 votes in favour, with no votes against or abstentions. The motion passed.

7.5 M. 1718-11 Motion to remove HUU's No Platform Policy (Paper J)

TM resumed Chair duties. SA summarised the discussions at previous Union Council meetings regarding the proposed removal of the No Platform Policy. SA noted that the groups specified within the No Platform Policy would not be allowed on campus under the External Speaker and Zero Tolerance policies. RG agreed with the proposed removal, stating that the removal streamlines processes for students.

Rory Hamill (LINKS Officer, RH) said LINKS sometimes require trainers or speakers from St John's Ambulance (SJA) to come on campus at short notice, which would be restricted by the External Speaker policy requiring two weeks' notice. RG suggested that RH agrees for SJA speakers to be on an approved returners list; JW noted that this is a valid point that should be addressed. KW suggested fast tracking External Speaker requests for people from some approved organisations or bodies, including SJA.

The motion passed with 13 votes for, none against and no abstentions.

7.6 M. 1718-12 Motion about Students and Brexit (Paper K)

For this motion TM stepped down as chair and JC resumed Chair duties, as TM seconded this motion. OO presented a motion for Union Council to consider supporting a cross party campaign regarding students lobbying for a referendum on the terms of Brexit, due to the impact on students. OO clarified that this would not be a referendum to stop Brexit.

Salman Anwar (Education Officer, SA) said Union Council was not the right platform to lobby for a referendum regarding the terms of Brexit, lobbying should be to secure the rights of students in the future. OO said political topics affecting students should be discussed by Union Council. A student agreed the motion should not be reviewed by Union Council, as the rights of EU citizens have already been agreed. OO said 75% of students in the UK voted to remain in the EU, with topics such as Erasmus and student movement affecting students.

A student noted that For Our Future's Sake (FFS) make references to the Labour party on their website. Isobel Hall (Education Officer Elect, IH) queried who will lead the campaign; OO advised that interest has been expressed by student groups to ensure the project is student-led. OO added that student engagement regarding this issue had been carried out prior to motion submission. SS queried the purpose of a referendum regarding the terms of Brexit, given that EU policy has been added to UK law and is unlikely to be amended until further in the future. ET believes HUU must represent students on all topics, including wider political matters. BF agreed, however queried why FFS had been chosen, when there are other organisations doing similar work. NW noted the impact Brexit will have on students and employment opportunities, acknowledging that HUU should debate this matter and represent students. MH said protection of student mobility and Erasmus + are vital to languages courses. ML asked for clarity on what the motion will achieve; OO said HUU would inform students about the motion and provide them with the support to lead their own campaign. HH questioned whether HUU would continue to liaise with the 10 students' unions already in the campaign. OO said as a national issue, a joint approach would be beneficial, however this would be for students to decide.

BF proposed an amendment to remove the first two bullet points under the resolve section of the motion. RG highlighted that some students may be put off participating in the campaign due to Labour party links, as some students will have voted leave. RG proposed removing FFS from the motion, with polls and coin drops used to identify an appropriate organisation to support this; amendment seconded. The amendment received 13 votes for, none against and no abstention. Amendment passed.

SS proposed amending bullet point two under resolves; SA proposed further amends to this item. The wording of the amendment was agreed as 'To help these students to lobby stakeholders in the UK, including MPs, to influence the meaningful vote on the terms of the Brexit deal in Parliament in Autumn 2018.' The amendment received 13 votes for, none against and no amendments; amendment passed.

The motion was voted on, containing the two amends passed, the motion received 13 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions. Motion passed.

10. Your Ideas (if applicable)

None reported.

- 11. Any Other Business**
None reported.