
Roehampton Students' Union Students' Union Council

The 5th Students' Union Council meeting (SUC) of the 2018/19 academic year
15.01.19, 5PM
Richmond Room, Whitelands College

ATTENDEES:

In Chair: Chuchu Nwagu (Students' Union President)
Minuting Secretary: Kate Griffiths

Members: LP – Liam Parsons (VP Education), GW – George Walker (VP Community & Welfare), TB – Theo Benjamin (Digby Stuart DP), TF – Tia (Tamiah) Forbes (Digby Stuart CP), SP - Shay Patel (Southlands CP), CA – Ciara Ansley (LGBTQ+ Officer), PEM – Penny Elliot-Miles (Froebel DP), DM – Dre Mbwe (BAME Students' Officer), KM – Kevin Muhika (Whitelands CP), , BB – Belinda Bradley (Disabilities Officer), MD – Matthew Delicate (Environmental and Ethics Officer), NC – Navya Chaturvedi (International Officer), KA – Kareena Alford (Students' with Caring Responsibilities Officer) DO – Daniel O'Donoghue (Froebel CP), RC – Ruth Clements (Interfaith Officer - Female), JH – Jordan Harris (Male Sports President), LC – Lily Crozier (Gender Equality Officer)

Apologies: SH – Sophie Harris (Mature Students' Officer), and EG – Elijah Grey (Trans Student Officer), KB – Kaysh (Okasia) Brown (Female Sports President), JCK - Jacob Cooper King (Interfaith Officer - Male), TR – Tanya Robinson (Whitelands DP), BA – Beth Amos (Mental Health Officer), JM – Joshua Malone (Mount Clare Site Rep)

In attendance: **Matt Wall (MW) – Chief Executive of the Students' Union**
Mark Gillespie (MG) – Membership Services Manager/Deputy Chief Executive
Johanna Korhonen (JK) – Student Voice Coordinator

Roehampton Students' Union
Students' Union Council

A G E N D A
The 5th Students' Union Council meeting (SUC) of the 2018/19 academic year
14.01.19, 5PM
Richmond Room, Whitelands College

Welcomes & Apologies

1. Confirm quoracy
2. Notification of any other business
3. Welcome to the 5th 2018/2019 meeting of Students' Union Council [Chuchu Nwagu]
4. Apologies for absence [Oral - Chuchu Nwagu]
5. Approval of minutes from last SUC (17.12.18, 5PM – Adam's Room, Froebel College).

Items for Information

6. Officer and Committee Updates. [All officers - Oral]
7. Officer Social - [CN, President RSU - Oral]
8. A member of Union Council to become an RSU Trustee [CN, President RSU - Oral]

Items for Decision

9. RSU Idea's Platform [CN, President RSU – Oral]
10. RSU Elections 2019 [Papers Attached]

Any Other Business.

Next Union Council Meeting (II)

11. Items to be brought to UCM VI
12. Date: Thursday 24th January 2019 5PM Location: TBC

TITLE:	Welcome
MINUTES:	CN: Welcome to the fifth meeting and special welcome to Mark Gillespie, our new Membership Services Manager and Deputy Chief Executive, taking over from Katie Badman.

TITLE:	Approval of Minutes 17/12/18
MINUTES:	These Minutes will be approved at the next meeting as they were not brought to this meeting.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

TITLE:	Officer and Committee Updates
MINUTES:	<p>GW: The Women’s Conference will be held on the 26th of February and this will be the main focus for the coming weeks.</p> <p>LP: Had a Grade Calculator meeting this morning in order to give students a clearer indication of where they stand throughout the year as a visual number.</p> <p>KA: Holding a Parents and Carers meeting from 4-6pm Thursday the 17th of Jan in the base on Digby (Erasmus House).</p> <p>LC: Focussing on the upcoming Women’s conference and is keen to gather as much help for this as possible. Working with Isobel (The SU’s Safer Roehampton Intern) on the Raise A Glass campaign which will be launched in February.</p> <p>NC: International welcome event on Friday the 18th of January in the convent parlour, Digby College.</p> <p>NL: Following up on emails sent to Estates re: monitoring the safety of off campus students after Bop. Meeting with GW to discuss this further on Thursday this week.</p> <p>RC: Organising inter-society events.</p>

	<p>BB: Working on an inclusive literature campaign alongside the NUS. Also working on the “Quiet” campaign, breaking down the barriers around talking openly about disabilities.</p> <p>MD: Planning the next Little Green Festival which will be the last week in February, tying in with the start of Fair Trade Fortnight. Also in talks with the library in regards to sustainable ideas they could implement as well as promoting Veganuary.</p> <p>JH: Planning Tour and Varsity – the launch party for which will take place at the end of this month.</p> <p>TB: College formal happening at the end of February.</p> <p>TF: Arranging the “Spark” alternative nights, the first one is happening on the 22nd of January from 7-9pm in Digby Diner and will be a spoken word/poetry evening.</p> <p>DO: The International welcome is happening on Thursday, starting in Grove House and moving on to the Bar. Working with Josh Malone in regards to engaging students on Mount Clare and there will be an event happening surrounding this on Friday the 1st of February.</p> <p>PE-M: The Pink Ribbon campaign will be happening on the 28th of Feb in the Union bar and there will be another B@1 cocktail night on the 28th of Jan.</p> <p>DM: Attended a Universal Black minds meeting regarding events for this term.</p> <p>CN: Tying up loose ends and concentrating on leaving a legacy.</p> <p>SP: The Southlands ties are now available to buy (£12) and the Reef has had a revamp with new ping pong tables installed. The Pub Quiz raised £200+ so another one is planned for this term.</p> <p>MA: Another quiz planned with Internationals and concentrating on working her way through her manifesto.</p> <p>GW: Emails will be sent out regarding an officer social which will take place in February.</p>
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TITLE:	A member of SUC to become an RSU Trustee
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<p>MINUTES:</p>	<p>CN: There were two candidates that Student Union Council members could vote for – Jordan Harris and Dan O’Donoghue. The voting was extremely close, but Jordan Harris gained the majority by 2 votes and is therefore elected as the SUC representative on the Trustee Board.</p>
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ITEMS FOR DECISION

<p>TITLE:</p>	<p>RSU’s Idea’s Platform</p>
<p>MINUTES:</p>	<p>GW: There was an idea posted on the platform in regards to changing the title of Gender Equality Officer to Women’s Officer. Unfortunately it didn’t reach the quota in order to pass but there was a fair amount of social media traction around this so it’s worth bringing to the meeting.</p> <p>LC: Shouldn’t change the name as we are ahead of the game and inclusive by the use of the title “gender equality” officer and thinks changing it back to “women’s” officer would be a step back. Having gathered a lot of feedback from students, the consensus is that the name should remain and not change.</p> <p>PE-M: Agrees that it could be seen as a step in the wrong direction.</p> <p>CN: The argument has unfortunately been blown out of proportion and both arguments were originally presented to give students a well-rounded, informative idea. Ultimately, it’s up to the students to decide, but we do need to get to a stage where we see women as equal. Also encountered people who found the term “Women’s Officer” exclusionary.</p> <p>DM: Doesn’t agree with the backlash on social media as some of the comments were wildly unfair. Felt like CN’s remarks were taken out of context and it’s difficult to convey a meaning via text.</p>

	<p>LC: Wanted to apologise as things did get vastly out of hand on social media. It's great that people care about the topic but didn't want anyone to be attacked over it.</p> <p>BB: Wants to make it clear that there are still issues faced by men and is keen to have a role that encompasses all, therefore is not in favour of the name change.</p> <p>MD: There needs to be more clarity as a role name change would dictate a different role description to go alongside it.</p> <p>CN: Took no offense to the comments, but is disheartened that it came across as if we, as a Council, were not a united front. It is important that we don't ruin this for ourselves on social media.</p> <p>A vote was then taken to establish if Council members wanted to change the title of "Gender Equality Officer" to "Women's Officer". No Council members voted in favour of the name change. NL, TF, DM and LP chose to abstain from voting. All other Council members present voted in favour of keeping the title as Gender Equality Officer.</p> <p>This motion was passed and the title of the role will remain.</p>
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TITLE:	RSU Elections 2019
MINUTES:	<p>MW: There are generally no major changes to the document, just the title changes that came to the last meeting.</p> <p>The funding for the previously discussed roles of Vice President (Activities) and Vice President (Equality and Diversity) are pending and will be decided at the Trustee Board meeting on the 21st of January. If we don't get additional funding and the Council decides that we still want these positions then it will result in us losing full time staff from one of the departments and this is not what we want to do. If we do get funding we can always add the role descriptions in at a later date.</p> <p>MG: If the role of VP Activities doesn't go forward, then the outlined role responsibilities will fall back on the SU President.</p> <p>CN: Just for clarification, we are keen to prioritise keeping key services over having a Sabb in place of them. Scope for funding is open for conversation.</p>

A draft Role Description document was then passed round and Council members asked to vote on each of the roles and discuss any amendments that they wanted to see.

RSU President:

All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.

Vice President (Education):

All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.

Vice President (Community and Welfare):

All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.

CN: There will be feedback concerning the proposed roles (VP Activities, VP Equality and Diversity) in due course.

College Presidents:

All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.

Deputy College Presidents:

All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.

Mount Clare Site Rep

All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.

Off Campus and Commuting Students' Officer:

All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.

Sport Roehampton President x2 (male and Female):

GW: Should we separate the roles?

JH: Neither for or against this motion.

All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.

Postgraduate Students' Officer:

All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.

Mature Students' Officer:

MW: Question raised as to whether the Sabb that this role reports to should be the VP Education?

LP: Feels we should keep it as VP Education as they need certain support that the VP Ed would be best to give them.

BB: We should keep it as a specific Sabb for consistency.

All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.

	<p>Students With Disabilities Officer: BB: There needs to be a more specific sentence within the role description stating the need to liaise with staff and the disabilities department.</p> <p>Conducted a survey of the demographic and it was felt that they wanted to keep the role title as “Students with Disabilities Officer” instead of “Disabled Students’ Officer” as they felt this would imply they were just a disability instead of a student first and foremost.</p> <p>All those present voted in favour of the Role Description, with the addition of a sentence regarding liaising with staff and the disabilities department.</p> <p>Mental Health Officer: All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.</p> <p>Students’ with Caring Responsibilities Officer: All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.</p> <p>LGBTQ+ Officer: LP chose to abstain from voting. All others present voted in favour of the Role Description, with the addition of a sentence stating they need to also liaise with the Trans Students’ Officer.</p> <p>Trans Students’ Officer: All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.</p> <p>Gender Equality Officer: All those present voted in favour of the Role Description, with the addition of liaising with the Trans Students’ Officer.</p> <p>Environmental and Sustainability Officer: All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.</p> <p>BAME Students’ Officer: All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.</p> <p>Interfaith Officer (applicable to Male/Female iterations) All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.</p> <p>International Officer: All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.</p> <p>Muslim Students’ Officer:</p>
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	<p>CN: Feels like this is a step in the right direction and gives Muslim students a voice at the table.</p> <p>GW: Muslim students make up 25% of our student population and therefore they merit their own representation.</p> <p>MA: Worries there might be a backlash from other religions who might feel under represented.</p> <p>TF: Could there be a society meet up before the role is set to get feedback from them before we put a brand new role in to the elections?</p> <p>CN: Muslim students are the one demographic we struggle to engage with and they can't even vote during SUC.</p> <p>DO: Wouldn't it be the role of Ruth and Jacob to meet with the religious societies and get them engaged?</p> <p>MD: If there's a committee in place then we can call on this.</p> <p>TF: If we don't see engagement should we even set the role first?</p> <p>RC: Hoping that this role will be the encouragement needed within the Muslim community to become engaged with the SU.</p> <p>GW: Is it worth trialling it for this year and reviewing when we come to decide the election roles this time next year?</p> <p>MA: What if a Muslim student doesn't run for the role? It will become even more exclusive for Muslim students if this happens.</p> <p>CN: We would target society commit members in order to ensure this doesn't happen.</p> <p>DM: If there's an issue with funding, couldn't we consolidate some roles in order to save money?</p> <p>GW: We've exhausted other options and found this to be the best option.</p> <p>RC: As the current Interfaith officer, this new officer role is 100% needed.</p> <p>LP: Student feedback on this role has been positive.</p> <p>CN: The person in the role will be there to represent issues rather than for spiritual needs.</p>
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	<p>NL: Believe it's a good idea, but students come and go so frequently that how can we be sure that we'll still have 25% Muslim students for the next academic year?</p> <p>GW: The demographic is such that it will always attract students of the Muslim faith.</p> <p>TF, KM, PE-M, SP, MA, LP and KA all abstained from voting. None of the members present voted against the role. All other members voted in favour of the role.</p> <p>Chair of the Students' Union Council: All those present voted in favour of the Role Description.</p> <p>SUC to approve MG to be the Returning Officer for the Elections: All those present voted in favour of the motion.</p> <p>SUC to approve the ATV voting system used in elections. All those present voted in favour of the motion.</p>
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TITLE:	A.O.B
MINUTES :	<p>TF: Drinks and snacks to be provided at SUC meetings.</p> <p>NC: Doesn't attend Bop or Fez, could there be another reward given to those who don't benefit from this?</p> <p>CN: Will look in to this.</p>

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday the 24th of January – Location: Adam's Room, Grove House