
Roehampton Students' Union
C O U N C I L

The 8th Union Council meeting (UCM) of the 2017/18 academic year
14.03.18, 5 PM
Adam Room, Froebel College

ATTENDEES:

In Chair: Jack De France (Students' Union President)
Secretary: Kate Griffiths

Members: JB - Joanna Briggs (VP Education), CN - Chuchu Nwagu (VP Community & Welfare), MK - Michael Keohane (Digby Stuart CP), FL - Fizz Lawson (Digby Stuart DP), GW- George Walker (Froebel CP), SP- Shay Patel (Southlands CP), LM- Levi Mbiya (Southlands DP), KH- Kallel Hunter (Mount Clare Site Rep), RR- Romeo Rygol (Male Sports President), EC- Emmanuel Carriere (LGBTQ+ Officer), KW- Kat Walker (Gender Equality Officer), NE- Naglaa ElBaz (Postgraduate Officer), JCK- Jacob Cooper King (Interfaith Officer), and KR – Katie Richards (Off-campus Officer)

Guests: SE - Steve Eagle, KR – Kirsty Robinson (Elior Student Experience and Marketing Manager)

Apologies: LB- Libby Brewster (Froebel DP), MN- Michael Nieves (Whitelands CP), SH- Shannon Hagland (Whitelands DP), JBx- Jess Box (Female Sports President), LMc- Lukas McCabe (Disabilities Officer), DJ- Deqa Jama Ali (Ethnic Equality Officer), KK- Kristina Kjonigsen (Environmental and Ethics Officer), CG- Christina Gutierrez (International Officer) and KS – Kitty Smith (Mental Health Officer)

AGENDA

Welcomes & Apologies.

1. Welcome to the 8th 2017/2018 meeting of Union Council.
2. Apologies for absence.

Items for Information.

3. Officer & Committee Updates. [All officers - **Oral**]
4. RSU Policy passed online on 09.03.18: All elected officers should not be allowed to endorse any individual who runs in the elections for their role. - [JDF - **Oral**]
5. Vice-Chancellor resigning and selection process for a successor. - [JDF - **Oral**]
6. TF Update - All Programmes Should Have Recorded Lectures. - [**DOC. 01, p. 3**]
7. TF Update - Reusable Plastic Cups. - [**DOC. 02, p. 3**]
8. TF Update - Scholarships/bursaries for refugees/asylum seekers. - [**DOC. 03, p. 4**]
9. TF Update - Subsidise graduation costs. - [**DOC. 04, p. 4**]
10. TF Update - Increase the 72 buses. - [**DOC. 05, p. 4**]
11. TF Update - Make the RSU Guestlist Online. - [**DOC. 06, p. 5**]
12. Tampon Tax question? - [JDF, President RSU - **DOC. 07, p. 6**]

Items for discussion.

13. The new catering suppliers - [JDF, President RSU & Elior reps - **DOC. 08, p. 6**]
14. Library student expectations/staff expectation - [JDF, President RSU - **DOC. 09, p. 7**]
15. College Cup: the future - [JDF, President RSU - **DOC. 10, p. 9**]
16. Student Senate £50,000 funding - [JDF, President RSU - **DOC. 11, p. 9**]

Items for decision.

17. Ideas Policy
 - 17.1. Bring back the cash machine in the Union. - [**DOC. 12, p. 10**]

Any Other Business.

18. Items for discussion not on the Agenda (only if scheduled time allows for this).

Next Union Council Meeting (VII)

19. Items to be brought to UCM IX 20.
Date: Monday 26th March, 12 Noon
Location: Bailey Room, Southlands College.
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TITLE:	Welcome
Minutes:	JDF: Welcomed all members to the eighth Trustee Meeting of the year.

TITLE:	Apologies for Absence
Minutes:	Libby Brewster, Christina Gutierrez, Kristina Kjonigsen, Kitty Smith, Lukas McCabe and Deqa Jama Ali all sent their apologies for the meeting.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

TITLE:	Officer Updates
Minutes:	<p>LM: Southlands celebration dinner happening tonight. Shitelands and boat party dates have been decided and tickets will be on sale soon. Wanted to combine the College Cup events with the Summer Shindig and have a provisional date of the 22nd of May.</p> <p>GW: The Boxing College Cup event is coming up and if people could share the poster that would be great. Had a block allocation party night on Monday and planning a cocktail night next term.</p> <p>JCK: Compiling a catering survey across all outlets Went down to Friday prayers to speak to the Muslim community and their feedback was that there's now only 1 halal option on the pub grub menu if you want a meat option. There's also no choice in the shops on campus.</p> <p>KH: Having a meeting regarding the Common Room and what can be done about the damage to the room.</p> <p>KW: Huge thank you for holding the Women's Conference, it was a great success. Working on sustainable menstrual products with a view to students creating their own. Free the Nipple Photoshoot planned.</p> <p>RR: Been in talks with Sport Roehampton and Nuffield Health in regards to offering physio therapy discounts as well as injury prevention workshops for Captains. Working on a naked calendar.</p>

	<p>Sports social planned for April. Trying to introduce new sports such as American Football and Baseball.</p> <p>EC: Still holding our Tuesday and Thursday meetings. Planning an end of year party.</p> <p>JdF: University Council - discussions around the resignation of the Vice Chancellor, Paul O'Prey. The newly reformed Office for Students will come into effect in April. Reviewing Programmes over the coming months. Met Justine Greening. Leadership Week is the 14th – 18th of May. Meeting with the VC regarding issues such as drugs on campus, mental health and unconscious bias around race in relation to lecturers, among other things. Ruth and Chuchu heading to the NUS Conference to represent us.</p> <p>JB: Women's Conference was a great success and Jo will circulate the clip in which it was mentioned on the BBC. Currently in discussions surrounding the 10 departments and identifying any problems. Feedback on this would be greatly appreciated. Changing the Moodle site, provisional plans currently.</p> <p>KR: End of year party was put on the Ideas page but it didn't generate enough interest so Katie is meeting with Maxina on building engagement. Pizza and mocktail night planned for the 28th of March and this is also linked with Mental Health.</p> <p>FL: Currently have Digby Tracksuits on offer and working at expanding the range to caps etc. The Flat Rep dinner is coming up.</p> <p>NE: In regards to the childcare issue, the follow up meeting went well. There are now options to help students with children on the agenda. Wants to set up career sessions for post grads. Spring social – still trying to find the time.</p> <p>SP: Flat Rep social was good, although not many turned up. Southlands has now recruited all its Flat Reps.</p> <p>CN: Currently in the middle of Elections, but always here to support.</p>
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ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

TITLE:	The New Catering Suppliers.
Minutes:	<p>JdF: We are joined today by Steve Eagle (SE), Kirsty Robinson (KRo) and Anastasia (A) from the Elixor catering team and it's an opportunity for the students to ask any questions and give feedback.</p> <p>SE: Has been the Contract Director of Elixor for 2 years and welcomes any questions/comments.</p> <p>JCK: More halal options need to be available as pub grub only has 1 option. The pricing of those options needs to be in line with non-halal food too as it's the more expensive option. There's also a different price for soya/almond and lacto-free milk options.</p> <p>KRo: Soya milk is free but we have to pay a premium for almond. SE: The prices are set by the supplier, so we can always go back to them with alternatives.</p> <p>RR: In regards to the vegetarian/vegan options, students need to be aware that the chips are cooked in the same vat as the meat, so technically this doesn't make them vegetarian or vegan.</p> <p>SE: Easy to make one vat just for vegetarian food.</p> <p>RR: The chicken burgers from Pub Grub should also be revised as the chicken portion is far too small.</p> <p>GW: Wanted to give some positive feedback that the sandwich bars are really popular. The snakebite recipe needs to be revised as it tastes very different from the one students are used to.</p> <p>NE: The disappearance of the meal deal is an issue.</p> <p>KRo: We are working with the suppliers to provide sandwich meal deals and they will be coming back in the near future.</p> <p>FL: Why do we have to pay for hot water in the library?</p> <p>KRo: They are charged if they use a disposable cup to account for the costs of the lid/milk/sugar etc. If you bring your own cup then you won't be charged.</p> <p>JB: The vegan options are not clear on the catering website (Spoonfed)</p>

	<p>KH: Concerned that the fruit in the library is thrown away each day and could it not be given away instead?</p> <p>SE: Yes it could be given away.</p> <p>GW: Is there anything we can help you with?</p> <p>SE: The biggest issue is that the recycling is not done properly, so more education around this could be an option. We've given a quote to Reggie regarding a dishwasher for the canteen and if he approves this then we're all set to roll out the reusable cups for the bar. It will most likely be a £2 deposit for each cup.</p> <p>GW: Possible deals on a Saturday to make it busier?</p> <p>KW: If you eat in would you get a different cup?</p> <p>SE: They would be available on request but at the moment 99% of people are after a disposable cup. The brown cups are now fully compostable.</p> <p>GW: Could they add some seasonal variations to the menu?</p> <p>RR: Possible drinks deals after sports fixtures on a Wednesday.</p> <p>LM: The situation at Southlands has vastly improved and there's a much bigger selection of food at the Reef with costs coming down.</p> <p>SE: Spoken to Gwen and the pool table is due to be fixed.</p> <p>JdF: It's really good to have these feedback sessions as a really good relationship is forming. Thank you Elior for coming in.</p>
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TITLE:	RSU Policy passed online: All elected officers should not be allowed to endorse any individual who runs in the elections for their role.
DATE SET UP:	09.03.18
MINUTES:	<p>KH: If there is only one candidate running what's the policy then?</p> <p>JdF: You wouldn't be able to publically support them but please don't ignore them if they want to come to you for advice! This was the rule that was in place last year. We can do two things in light of this: 1 – Submit a policy online to retract this. 2 – Hold an emergency online vote (however, this is cutting it very fine to be in place for this year's elections.)</p>

	<p>LM: Our role is to encourage and we have a responsibility. If the issue is that it may be off-putting to students that maybe lack confidence then we could hold workshops or confidence building schemes. We still hold influence.</p> <p>FL: Agree with Levi, that if we can't endorse one then we shouldn't endorse any, but then what does this say about us as we have a responsibility.</p> <p>RR: If we want to endorse someone then it should be throughout the year and we should be allowed to endorse everyone.</p> <p>CN: The policy is in place as a safe guarding technique as a public endorsement from an outgoing candidate could cause a grievance from the other candidates. The Sabbs shouldn't endorse anyone as extra leverage. The nature of the election becomes toxic if we publically support a specific candidate and it may lead to others feeling disempowered.</p> <p>If our privileged voice disempowers then it's not a level playing field.</p> <p>JDF: Do we put forward a disciplinary process if we find an officer going against this policy?</p> <p>LM: Doesn't think that a change to the rules now would be beneficial but we would need future discussions around this. Elections are competitive in nature and candidates should be aware of this when they enter into the process. We should have a Union Council meeting dedicated to Elections.</p> <p>JDF: This came to the Council at the beginning of December and Jack wants to encourage a discussion through Facebook rather than on Whatsapp. Ultimately, the rules are set by permanent staff and this ensures stability. Elected officers are allowed to give feedback but are not allowed to decide specifics of the elections.</p>
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TITLE:	Vice-Chancellor Resigning and selection process for the successor.
MINUTES:	JDF: Our Vice-Chancellor, Paul O'Prey is resigning after 15 years of service. He started his job in 2004 when Roehampton became an independent University. Is one of the top 3 longest serving VC's in the country but will be leaving us in August as it's a legal requirement that he gives at least a year's notice. There will be student representation on the panel in the form of the SU President and a new VC will be appointed over the Summer to begin the 12 month transition period.

	<p>NE: This same process was made very transparent in her previous University so will it be the same here?</p> <p>JdF: The next step is forming the committee and this will provide students with transparency as potential candidates will hopefully meet with the Union Council Members.</p>
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Task force update for Union Council.

TITLE:	All Programmes should have recorded lectures
DATE SET UP:	05.10.17
MEMBERS (elected officers and other students):	Joanna Briggs, Jacob Cooper-King, Naglaa Elbaz
CURRENT PROGRESS:	No new updates

TASK FORCE UPDATES FOR UNION COUNCIL.

TITLE:	Reusable Plastic Cups
DATE SET UP:	05.12.16
MEMBERS (elected officers and other students):	Jack De France, Kristina Kjonigsen, Deqa Jama Ali
CURRENT PROGRESS:	JdF: Updated form the earlier chat with Elior.

TITLE:	Scholarships/bursaries for refugees/asylum seekers
DATE SET UP:	13.03.17
MEMBERS (elected officers and other students):	Jack De France, Kallel Hunter, Deqa Jama Ali, Michael Keohane, Emmanuel Carriere, Chuchu Nwagu
CURRENT PROGRESS:	No new updates.

TITLE:	University to subsidise graduation costs
DATE SET UP:	20.10.17
MEMBERS (elected officers and other students):	Chuchu Nwagu, Joanna Briggs, Naglaa Elbaz, Christina Gutierrez
CURRENT PROGRESS:	<p>CN: It's an ongoing conversation and it would be useful to have feedback from the students as the VC is interested.</p> <p>RR: Graduates need to have access to dates sooner.</p> <p>Action Point – Chuchu to take this up with the task force.</p>

TITLE:	Increase the number of 72 buses
DATE SET UP:	13.11.17
MEMBERS :	Jack De France, Romeo Rygolski
CURRENT PROGRESS:	No Comment.

TITLE:	Make the RSU Guest List Online
CURRENT PROGRESS:	No Updates.

TITLE:	Tampon Tax
DATE SET UP:	16.02.18
MEMBERS:	Chuchu Nwagu, Kat Walker, Romeo
CURRENT PROGRESS:	<p>JdF: Now that we have a new supplier has anyone part of the task force heard whether the tampon tax has been applied again?</p> <p>CN: The shop has moved to a new brand which is cheaper than the previous option so the tax has been built into the cost but the students will pay the same as they did for the pervious tampons.</p> <p>JdF: If this could be double checked with Steve Eagle.</p>

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

<p>TITLE:</p>	<p>Library Student/Staff Expectations</p>
<p>MINUTES :</p>	<p>JdF: Most students seem to like the building and facilities but he’s heard of student/staff relation issues – has anyone got any feedback on this?</p> <p>JB: Similarly if you see any students acting inappropriately then this can be fed back too.</p> <p>KW: The noise limits are still not being respected, even though the areas are clearly marked.</p> <p>RR: The online Library Chat option doesn’t work. If you’re on the bottom floor making noise then by the design of the building, the top floor will still be able to hear you. Nobody wants to sit in silence.</p> <p>KH: Staff have a patronising way of reinforcing the rules, they need to adjust the way they deal with individual students. Some act like they’re security.</p> <p>CN: Library staff have all taken part in unconscious bias training. It is highlighted that different cultures have different noise levels that are deemed “normal”. The training also includes Cultural Sensitivity and the staff should’ve taken this into account.</p> <p>KR: When you’re in study groups you need to have a verbal discussion and she’d also witnessed a member of library staff remove a distressed student for crying too loudly.</p> <p>FL: Students are bad at throwing rubbish away and witnessed the same group of students having arguments with the same members of staff. Believes the three strike system with ID cards is unfair.</p> <p>NE: The document that the library produced doesn’t give a sense of commitment, it also doesn’t explain what students can do if certain things aren’t happening. Who’s accountable for this?</p> <p>The computers have timers on them that will log you out after only 2 hours and you’re only given a 1 minute warning before this happens.</p>

	<p>RR: Has witnessed discrimination and the library staff shouldn't use systems against people. Security are also abrasive.</p> <p>MK: The tone the staff take is off and he's made a formal complaint regarding this. The staff are able to see that you're a registered student on their system, even without your ID card so they should be more lenient on this.</p> <p>Only being able to borrow laptops for 2 hours is ridiculous and the fines should be taken away for this.</p> <p>JdF: The rule regarding the lack of ID cards is there because some students have been giving their ID cards to members of the local community.</p> <p>KH: The "no guests" policy is sound during the daytime, but at night time when there's fewer people around it should be less strict.</p> <p>EC: Agrees with abolishing the laptop time period as has just had to pay a £25 fine for going over the time limit.</p> <p>KW: Is there no equivalent to Wired in the new library?</p> <p>FL: Queens building is accessible 24 hours with a key card.</p> <p>MK: The vending machines don't accept the new £1 coins.</p> <p>JdF: MK to drop Jack an email about this.</p> <p>FL: Could we not have the library staff come in, much like Elior did earlier?</p> <p>MK: Could we rearrange the computers so there's less in the designated silent area?</p>
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TITLE:	College Cup: The Future
MINUTES :	<p>JdF: As the two spearheads of the College Cup are leaving (JdF and Jonathan Carter) we want to ensure that its legacy continues. Does anyone have any ideas to maybe take it in a new direction?</p> <p>KH: Could Mount Clare maybe be given more freedom as who they affiliate with?</p>

	<p>JdF: As it's now mostly second and third years down at Mount Clare, he'd assume people would associate with their first year college.</p> <p>MK: Students struggle as there's no clear timeline for the events. The College Cup events should be included into the timeline at the start of the year. It could also be logged similar to the volunteering hours so there's an incentive.</p> <p>FL: College Officers try to enforce pride but students are less engaged this year.</p> <p>CN: The college identity has died out and the pride has gone. For College Cup to be successful it needs someone independent to organise it – people with time consuming, strenuous jobs might not have time.</p> <p>JB: Students should lead on these things and a committee should be formed so they can have ownership of the events.</p> <p>KH: Should lecturers be involved? Maybe events can be promoted through lectures or via the Programme Rep system.</p> <p>JdF: How do we keep this going?</p> <p>FL: Students were asked to vote on Bop themes for the term, could it be the same with College Cup events?</p> <p>MK: The College Cup should be built into the College Presidents' role and other College Presidents should get together to plan a timeline.</p> <p>JdF: This would benefit from a formal document.</p> <p>FL: A new video is needed to accompany it and rebranding is essential.</p> <p>JdF: Email any ideas for a contingency plan to Jack.</p>
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TITLE:	Student Senate £50,000 Funding
MINUTES:	JdF: Speak to students to find out what they want to see. There's not enough money for an app and the library is now 24 hours at busy times due to Senate funding from a previous year. Past Senate money has also gone on Leadership Conferences.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

TITLE:	Bringing back the cash machine in the Union Bar.
MINUTES:	JdF: It was noted that due to a few Council members having to leave throughout the meeting, we are no longer at quorum and therefore cannot make decisions. This will be an item that will be brought back to the next Council Meeting along with the Societies AGM's and Handovers.

TITLE:	AOB
MINUTES:	RR: Students are having trouble getting their guests on to campus for pre drinks before events. Could the RSU guest list be given to security? NE: We should encourage a handover between officers as the training at the beginning of the year isn't specific to roles. Action Point – Item for Discussion at the Next UCM JdF: Although we can't enforce a handover period, we can strongly encourage it. MK: The Sky Sharma Foundation will be on campus tomorrow, raising awareness around Mental Health and SSOAP will also be performing. Please come down.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday the 26th of March.