

## **AGM 2016-17 MINUTES**

**Date:** Wednesday 18th February 2017

**Venue:** Clattern Lecture Theatre

Zangie (AZ)

**Time:** 2-5pm

**Chair:** Alayna

### **Welcomes and Introductions**

AZ Welcomed everyone to the AGM and gave introduction to the meeting, its purpose and how to get involved

### **AGM1617/01 The minutes of the AGM on 11th February 2016 and the EGM minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 - to approve**

There was no amendments and these were agreed.

### **AGM1617/02 Apologies for Absence – To note**

- Haider Chaudhry - KH Officer and Activities Officer. Any questions for HC will be noted and put to him when he returns from annual leave and the responses posted on the Union website
- Badminton
- Mens football
- Hockey
- Netball
- Tennis
- Volleyball.

### **AGM1617/03 Annual report and audited accounts – to approve**

These were presented by Daisy Du Toit (DDT), Penhyrn Road and Union Development Officer, and Nick Posford (NP) Union CEO.

They went through the history of the Students' Union and that we used to have commercial services. 15/16 saw a year of change in the Union with the removal of these services, increased wages due to London living wage.

NP went through the Union accounts to show the change in our income and expenditure. As the Union is a charity, we receive a block grant from the University. The Union was spending more on the commercial services than what it was making in profits and therefore was keeping it afloat.

Student asked what was meant by disagree, and AQ asked for what question.

**Questions on the report and accounts**

AQ Khan (AQ), Student – The audited accounts are not signed nor dated – why is this?

Natalie Forrester, Representation and Democracy Manager: A signed and scanned copy which wasn't accessible to students in its current format. This will be uploaded after the AGM.

DDT: I have signed the final accounts

AZ asked the AGM to approve the annual report and accounts

Approved

AZ asked the AGM to approve Crown Clark Whitehill to continue to be the auditors for the Union of Kingston Students.

Approved

**Union Budget for 16/17**

NP then went through the budgets for the 16/17

**Questions on the budgets**

Student - Why representation has received a larger amount?

NP – New members of staff in that team.

Micheal Montagu (MM), Student – is this thousands?

DDT: Yes.

AQ—why has student activities went down?

DDT: It is because we are rebuilding our resources and also rebuilding our finances, we had to cut student activities.

Richard Donnelley (RD), Student: is it all from the University money? Anything else?

NP: Part of it is our block grant but also income from things like memberships, commercial stalls and hoody sales.

MM: is this everything we do as a union?

DDT: it is an over-arching picture that the auditors use

AZ asked the AGM to approve the budget for 16/17

Approved

### **Union Aims for 16/17**

NP went through the Aims for the Union. He explained that we are trying to increase student engagement, to improve our election turnout as well as having better presence on all four campuses.

NP discussed increasing provision in advice as well as extra resourcing into supporting our liberation work. The Union is also developing activities that have the biggest reach to all students. Finally, the Union is working to achieve Customer Service Excellence award.

### **AGM1516/04 Reports from the Union Full Time Officers**

**1. Haider Chaudhry – Kingston Hill & Activities Officer.**

Unable to attend so a video of his report can be view [here](#)

**2. Beatrice Carey (BC) – Knights Park & Academic Affairs Officer**

A copy of this report can be found [here](#)

BC gave a synopsis of her role and explained that she is the second KP officer. BC explained that she most proud of her achievements of reducing the cost of printing for students, her work to organize Black History Month as well as representing KP on University committees. BC explained that there is a snapshot of the meetings that she sits on in her report. BC also discussed working with the University with course reps.

### **Questions from Students on BC's report**

Kamal Mohamed (KM), Student – What have you and Patrick done to tackle the attainment gap?  
BC - We've stop homogenizing black and ETMI students to the university as well as speaking at a Government Westminster Briefing. The University has only been looking at home students and not international students, they shouldn't include government terms when speaking to different students on campuses. We are creating safe spaces too.

Student -How much pressure on the attainment gap as it's a nationwide problem?

BC – I've met with EDI, challenging them to the university. It is not just inclusivity but targeting to students at the bottom of the gap, challenging EDI connectors to understand the BME attainment gap and who it affects.

Zuzanna Zujac (ZZ), Student - KP is considered as the most remote of all campuses, how do you get the communication between students and the union?

BC - By using course reps. Try to fit my schedule in around students as well as meeting with various members of staff at different levels to allow for representation. Meet your campus officer day was held. I am always asking what you would like me to do. This meant that we have another Black History Month in February, events in Stanley Picker Gallery and bike racks.

Student - More events should be held at KP as a lot of people don't get involved because the union is not present

BC - What events do you want me to do? We need to know what events you want, and breaking it into categories – working with societies to have more events but KP students need to demand more and petition.

AQ - how do you represent students at board of governors when they are giving the ex-vice-chancellor money for leaving?

BC - Certain decisions of the Board, I don't have access to, such as hiring, firing and money. The decision was out of my hands.

### **3. Daisy Du Toit – Penrhyn Road & Union Affairs Officer**

Video of this report can be found [here](#)

DDT explained that she has two roles within the Union. Firstly she is the PR Officer but as a secondary role of the Union Development. This means that she looks at the Union as an organization, what we achieve, where we are going. This is an internally facing role to set the direction of the Union

DDT explained that she has been using this opportunity to reach as many students as possible through a series of lecture shout outs. She has been process of building a relationship with the University and sit in a various meetings representing students.

DDT discussed that she is most proud of organizing a mass campaign which encouraged students to leave in protest for the gender pay campaign. She will take questions at the end of all of the Officer Reports.

### **4. Patrick Tatarian (PT) – Roehampton Vale & Student Life Officer**

A copy of this report can be found [here](#) as well as a [written report](#)

PT explained that his secondary remit is welfare issues, so the non academic side of the University experience which covers things like student wellbeing, mental health and cost of living.

PT discussed the current projects that he is working on; the prayer room at RV has gone ahead with improved signage to the multi faith space. The University buses to get extra commuter services, PT said that there has been issues and he has been feeding this back to the bus company, these issues included late running so a revised timetable has been issued. You can see the live countdown for the bus on the KU app and the KU7 service has been held back now to enable more inter campus services. Finally PT spoke about his visit to the bus company depot at 7:30am to speak to them directly about issues.

PT also spoke about campaigns that he has been working on which fall under this remit; Black History Month was worked on with BC with 30 events over 31 days, currently working on LGBT history month and Womens History Month. PT has also been campaigning for cheaper sanitary products and provision of gender neutral toilets.

### Questions from students on the Officer Reports

RD - About the constitution - all p/t officers were abolished such as liberation roles, but that leaves a big gap in the liberation work so there would be new 'societies' but the plan didn't work so shouldn't we go back to electing officers? They can help with accountability and liberation work that the Union is committed to.

DDT - Change happened dramatically because of research done, it was a short process but big changes to set the standard. We have student networks but we are working on having a more democratic method to represent our liberation work

PT - The idea behind student networks came in a referendum before we came into office. They provide a networking opportunity for those in a liberation group (e.g. identifying in a oppressed group), they elect a leader, but it hasn't took off the ground to get students engaged

MM - how are secondary remits decided?

DDT - We had intensive training and decided as a team which roles - but we have been working on making that more democratic, so that is going to the trustee team and bringing more accountability in that process.

BC - All 4 roles were decided which would be better for each officer, and which skill sets, and has the passion to do the role.

ZZ - I 100% agree with the representing to meetings, and I see it in action, but there is a lack of us students hearing what the representatives have to say? What can this be working toward, to let us know what is happening behind the scenes e.g. money?

BC - Come to course rep meetings, so they show up to hear about.

DDT: That's exactly it, and how can we communicate and contact mass students? We need to work more on our student media, weekly live stream where officers can explain what they've been doing, social media is not only place though. Union working on universities marketing so that the university can put it up their news platforms. If students have skills, please come. We only have limited resources so we need you too.

KM - Haider is on annual leave, why isn't he here? Missing AGM is the biggest opportunity to hold account?

BC - We have rights to work. We miss our personal holidays, missed thanksgiving, and we need down time too. He had placed this time as holiday months ago. This is a personal time for him, and you guys get a break, so we should too.

DDT: It is kind of my fault. This was originally scheduled for the end of December, but this is when international students leave so we took the decision to move the date so we can have more students attend. In future years, we should make a concrete date

Student - As a committee member of the sports clubs, I find the communication quite hard with sports and upgrade websites, sponsorships. Didn't get responses from Josh. We have to pay with a week in advance and training would have to stop. Will there be an improvement for sports, as was told he was the only person who could come in?

NP - Is it a failure of the organization?

Student - Webpages and the staff in sports.

NP - Our customer services fell through, so we'll try to get a full understanding but is not a political issue but it is a union issue so can I speak afterwards to you?

AQ - Can we not have time with Haider on Skype? Appreciate that Haider booked a holiday when he wants to, but students pay £9,000 and you get a salary. Put in a request for 10-20 minutes: has he even be approached about it, and what was his response? If he was a passionate officer he would.

NP – The Union fell through, the schedule was placed AGM at a time inaccessible for students so we changed the date. It's not Haiders fault, but it's in our strategy. Schedule should be set earlier in time. You can ask questions at any time, this isn't the only opportunity.

### **AGM1516/05 Notification of External Affiliations - to note**

Full list can be found [here](#)

### **AGM1617/06 Motions Debate**

Motion 1 - First there was Brexit, then there was Trump and now there is the TEF. Save our students (Their education and their pockets) before it is too late!

Proposer - Lalia Yousofi (LY) (K1416506)

Seconder - Richard Donnelly (K1060937), Sarah Shillingford (K1456681), Daisy Du Toit (K1324730) and Beatrice Carey (K1505152)

Speech For – Lalia Yousofi (K1416506)

LY explained that the motion she submitted is concerning the TEF. No-one knows what the TEF is and how it works Students need to know more about TEF because it is a one size fits all. Universities will be ranked according to different levels and there will be a lift on the cap on fees

Speech against – None

Summation – DDT

DDT explained what the NSS is and what it means for the University to be a part of it.

AZ – We've had an amendment. AQ has a minute to speak to his amendments.

AQ – 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment is to remove resolve 1: risk assessment, NUS has already held a risk assessment so why do we need to hold a risk assessment? This is mainly linked to the president, Malia Bouattia. This amendment is to remove resolve 1 because the NUS, as we are affiliated, they have done it for us.

AQ - 2<sup>nd</sup> amendments is to remove resolve 3. Why are we lobbying the NSS survey agents, again it is linked to the NUS President. This is her main role, and her role is finishing in April and fabricating claims against her is stopping her from carrying out a duty.

LY - The risk assessment is important because not every Union has chosen to boycott, and no guarantee every university will join the TEF

BC – The risk assessment is important as we are not the same Union as NUS. We are separate organization and we as students should govern what we should do. Our situation is more delicate than others.

RD: Risk assessment are done for building sites, it is not applicable to this situation. It is being used to do stop the actions – this is a national policy. It is passed at national conference, if there has to be a risk assessment, it should have happened in September.

Hamad Momin (HM): LY has not done enough research, because a risk assessment is a tool against the NUS president, in light of the Al Jazeera. We will be delayed in our action.

BC: Nothing to do with Malia. Risk assessment is how it will effect certain faculties. Risk assessment is for each faculty.

Vote to remove resolved 1. Passed.  
Resolve 1 will be removed

Vote to remove resolve 3. Rejected.  
Resolve 3 will remain.

Vote on the rest of the motion. Passed.

### **Motion 2: Orphanage Volunteering**

Proposer - Elif Bulut (EB) (K1418365)  
Seconder - Daisy Du Toit (K1324730)

Speech For – Elif Bulut (K1418365)

EB explained that people volunteer for many reasons. For many it is to give back to the community, but how much do we know about these projects? Millions of children live in orphanages across the world, they are in fact not orphans, abducted. Celebrities are campaigning against this and voluntourism is a driver of family breakers, incentivizes villages to be ran as business. EB believes that this motion will be an acknowledgment that the Union will stop taking part in orphanage volunteering that use children to continue projects.

Speech Against – Hamad Momin

HM this does not look at the wider picture. It means that we cannot volunteer nor raise money through societies. We should look. The Union should look at the charity commission, it is disgusting but it is not fair for all orphans

Questions?

Student - What way can we help charities that are doing the right thing?





EB - I understand why you're upset, but we're not saying let's stop all kind of volunteering but there is an ethical decision to be made. To make it fair and run smoothly in the benefit of children, we should stand against it.

HM - Does this mean student societies cannot raise money for any more orphanages? ISOC weren't allowed to despite it being a British charity.

EB - This is a sector wide thing, and we have a Union pledge to stop voluntourism.

Student - Looking at resolves, resolve 1 is to take a stand. Completely boycotting it, does that mean a blanket boycott or will there be investigations of where are the problems of voluntourism?

EB: Amendments can be made.

Students: Where have the figures been checked? Have charity commission been involved? If it goes through, does this stop students supporting legitimate orphanages?

AZ – We had an amendment. AQ has a minute to speak to his amendments.

AQ – The amendments are to remove the first resolves. The second amendment is for the charity to be black listed. Third amendment is to change that the general policy of any exploitation should be supported.

AZ – You cannot take questions on amendments. All amendments can do is remove and not change the wording.

AQ - You can amend an amendment, if not it's a removal. It's creating a sense of confusion.

AZ - Clarification: only removal.

Amendment – AQ

To take out all the resolves entirely.

AZ – If you remove all of the resolves, you are, in effect, voting on the whole motion. Without any resolves the motion would fall. Therefore we should move on to the vote on

Summation – EB

Vote on the motion – Rejected.

### **Motion 3: Create more of solidarity with KU LGBT+ students to make them feel safer**

Proposer - Jamie-Leigh Fish (JLF) (K1421696)

Seconder - Patrick Joseph Tatarian (K1263601)

Speech For - Jamie-Leigh Fish (K1421696)

JLF - It has come to my attention that many students identify as LGBT. There are very few procedures in place for acceptance of these students. The Union does have policy, but these policies do not



mention sensitivity and they are not carried out to their fullest. Alarming number of students to ask what pronouns to use, so many people do not understand gender pronouns. We should make it mandatory to introduce sensitivity training, and also necessary for staff / student ID badges to include gender pronouns. Doesn't need to be said, but needs to be in writing for there to be solidarity to feel welcome

Speech Against – None

Questions?

Gideon Sassoon (GS), Student - In regards to gender pronouns, is it also in reference to non-binary?

JLF - My pronouns are they/ them. Many trans and non-binary at the university are insulted. ID cards is going to be along process, so it should be on the next intake of students. Should be on re-printed ID cards.

Question: Would this include anything other than them / them?

JLF - Important to identify as anything. But it is about personal preference and how they feel. It shouldn't be prescribed.

Summation - JLF

Student – Can you clarify what you mean by sensitivity training?

JLF - Sensitivity is acknowledging that there are these different pronouns, and there are different ways to speak to different people. Workshops on right / wrong to go about gender / sexuality. That's one of the most important things because it isn't happening in the university, so should start in the Union so it starts here, it may move along and progress to be a mandatory thing.

Vote on the motion – Passed.

#### **Motion 4: EU student protection after Brexit**

Proposer - Zuzanna Zajac, (ZZ) (K1406812)

Seconder - Daisy Bow Du Toit (K1324730)

Speech For - Zuzanna Zajac (K1406812)

ZZ – We are trying to prevent a problem from happening. As a EU student, I do not want to see intolerance to people outside of the UK. We need to oppose the visa restrictions of working hours, as we already do not receive student loans making financial life even harder – especially as an international student. Also, for me, the next generation are against internationalism, there should be no borders.

Speech Against – Student

I understand the merit of the motion, international students have always had to face these issues so xenophobic to non EU- students

Questions?

Aditya Tandon (AT), Student, We should be looking at the bigger picture. I come from India, and can only work 20 hours a week, we should protect not just EU students and also all international students.

ZZ : Agreed, but the difference is that we are part of the EU that gives certain protections.

Summation -ZZ

Vote - Passed.

#### **Motion 5: To officially take a stance & stand in solidarity with the people of Syria**

Proposer - Hamad Momin (HM) (K1554587)

Secunder - Munaim Sayd (K1517096)

Speech For - Hamad Momin (K1554587)

This motion is very straight forward. It is about the conflict in Syria. Go to resolves to release a public statement, so we should have a larger stance on the genocide and to increase awareness through a conference of activists to talk about the situation in Syria.

Speech Against – None

Questions?

Student - You say you want to make a stance, what is the stance?

HM - The stance is to stand in solidarity, 40,000 people have been killed. Stance is to put out a public statement condemning Assad regime and military. Sitting in silence is a form of agreement – this is our way to speak out.

Student - What is the ultimate goal?

HM - Well, we should be leading discussions at the conference it is a foundation. We can have a wider movement. This is the bare minimum.

Summation – HM

Vote – Passed



### **Motion 6: Prioritization of Kingston University Student**

Proposer - Kamal Mohamed (KM) (K1233855)

Secunder - Ayo Oloyede (K1507055)

Speech For - Kamal Mohamed (K1233855)

The Union should be providing jobs for KU graduates to get experience in the charity environment. To some students, the Union is not very welcoming and the Union should get more people from different backgrounds working there. We should have culture awareness and look at how the Union continuously change.

Speech Against – None

Questions?

Shanice Lewis Spence (SLP), Student - In what way is the Union not inviting? You didn't explain we are not inviting.

KH – I understand that it is welcoming but for many minority students, it is not. It needs to be more diverse and have culturally aware staff

AT - Your motion says prioritisation of KU students. I made the chance to do it, and the Union does make a large effort. The 4 officers come from different backgrounds, and they are diverse. They make the effort to get to know each other.

Summation – KM

Vote – Passed

### **Motion 7: Cultural Heritage Celebration Months**

Proposer - Beatrice Carey (BC) (K1505152)

Secunder - Ayo Oloyede (K1507055)

Speech For - Beatrice Carey (K1505152)

Kingston has a high percentage of international students and we do not recognize the breadth of cultures, and homogenises all cultures. Each month, we should celebrate a different cultural background.

Speech Against – None

Questions?

AT – There is 110 societies are celebrating culture. Doing it with the Union, too. We always mention the Union. We will be doing the same thing, leaving student societies to collapse.

BC – We want to incorporate more societies in to the change.



Student - How will you go about this? You say you don't want to homogenise, but how can you fit in a month of events?

BC - There are cultural heritage months, we just don't celebrate them. This is a start, and we should learn more about cultures. We homogenise in to one month.

Ellen Baldwin (EB) - We have done BHM for over the past few years anyway, and definitely last year. It'd be really chaotic, and also took away from Global Festival because it'd be all over the year. Also, with BHM 2.0, isn't that clashing with LGBT month?

Student – It is going to be really chaotic, and its going to cost the Union a huge amount. How will it be budgeted? Culture getting more money than another one?

BC - the money is equal as per resolves. As for chaotic, its to empower students to have the backing of their union to do events and would help.

Student - The union should be supporting the student societies, you wouldn't be doing an equal amount for cultural so that would have to extend to academic. That's what the students should be doing.

BC – should I only celebrate my culture with a society? African American, what society? Its to de-homogenise this

Summation – BC

Vote – Rejected

### **Motion 8: Reduce the time required for a Guest Speaker to be Approved**

Proposer - Hamad Momin (K1554587)

Seconder – Munaïm Sayd (K1517096)

Speech For – HM

This motion is to reduce amount of time it takes for guest speakers to be removed. Student societies face a lot of obstacles. We want to reduce to a min. of two weeks if attended before, if not, 3 weeks' notice.

Speech Against – None

Questions?

Student - What is the exact process for speaker process? If there is not a reason why it takes 4 weeks?

HM - The policy is on the website. Each society has to fill it in, and if they have or not attended, background checks are done to see if any controversy. But it shouldn't take 4 weeks. For example, alumni required 4 weeks to check but he studied here, and he came again, and another four weeks were needed. I'm not against background checks, but just needs to be reduced.

Student - Are these times policy? Are they part of security? Can they be changed?



Point of Clarity from Charlie Hudson, Societies Coordinator - It is not to remove the whole guest speaker process, just simply to change it especially for those who have spoken here before. This is the guest speaker policy [ placed on the screen]. This is alumni, students, everybody. It is always four weeks, even if she approved someone three days ago as a staff member, it'll still take four weeks.

Student - Why does it take 30 days to google if someone is an extremist? We do it ourselves anyway, along with deadlines, so should be reduced.

HM - The policy is still there. We are not removing it. We just want to reduce it.

Summation – HM

Vote – Passed

AZ – We have now reached the end of the allotted time that we have for the AGM. The rest of the motions will be referred to the Union's Trustee Board. Thank you for coming and the debate.

Meeting closed.