



EGM 2017 MINUTES

Date: Thursday 9th March
Venue: JG 0001 PR Campus

Time: 4.30pm – 7pm
Chair: Laila Yousofi (LY)

Welcomes and Introductions

EGM1617/02 Apologies for Absence

- RadSoc
- Chemistry Soc
- Kingston Bible Reading Club
- Horse Riding Soc
- SEC Postgraduate Research Soc
- Catholic society

EGM1516/03 Reports from the Union Full Time Officers

1. Haider Chaudhry – Kingston Hill & Activities Officer
2. Beatrice Carey – Knights Park & Academic Affairs Officer
3. Daisy Du Toit – Penrhyn Road & Union Affairs Officer
4. Patrick Tatarian – Roehampton Vale & Student Life Office

Officer Updates.

Haider Chaudhry apologises for not attending the last AGM. He then goes on to talk about his role in creating a better presence on the Kingston Hill Campus, along with his efforts to lobby the university for a gym and prayer room. He comments how changes are bureaucratic and take a long time to achieve although his time at Kingston Hill has resulted in greater student engagement due to the 50% voter turnout on his campus during the student elections.

Daisy Du Toit updated the room on how she has been fulfilling her role in Union Development, sitting in on meetings regarding the Union finances and the organization as a whole. She mentions the elections and how they were a success for democracy. She mentions her involvement with student disciplinary and fitness to practice hearings, as well as the 'I am an Immigrant' project which she has been involved in.

Patrick Tatarian comments on his focus of projects at Roehampton Vale. He talks about liaising with SEC faculty to have the lab opening hours extended. He mentions the need for a bus shelter on Roehampton Vale and the improvements that will happen there. He comments how he is not sure about timescale but is working on achieving these aims. He mentions the problems at Roe Vale with the prayer room and how he is fighting to make it more inclusive on the basis of gender.

Beatrice Carey mentions how she met with the board of governors to speak about motions passed at the AGM. She mentions the student union submission of the TEF and her contributions to that document. She also comments on the success of Black History Month 2.0 and the other liberation campaigns she has contributed to. She notifies the room on her continuous meetings with SMT in the university and her efforts to help students cope with the KP move to River House. She further mentions her role in plan 2020 and how she is attempting to educate students on these institutional changes.



Questions for the officers:

Vicky Vu to BC – How can students get involved with Plan 2020, they want to be a part of the discussion?

BC to Student – I cannot emphasize enough the importance of emails. If you email me I will listen, I keep telling everyone to email me and I can show this evidence to management for you guys.

AQ Khan to BC - Do you work for the university or for the student union? You put an email out to the students promoting the TEF. You haven't considered us in the process. It seems to me that the way you put the TEF forward is like you are not on our side. I would like you to explain your position.

BC to AQ - I requested a TEF workshop which was what students were asked of me. We are having a discussion on March 29th to discuss this further. I wasn't promoting the TEF I was just providing information.

Chris Newlove to BC – Did the TEF workshop involve real debate or was it a one sided discussion? If you're going to inform students you have to do it before the actual process happens. It goes against the motion passed at the AGM.

BC to CN – First I want to clarify there was nothing promoting the TEF. We were telling students about the TEF long before this. I am accountable to course reps the most and I have been talking to course reps about this. If you want to hold anyone to account on that it should be the course reps because that is who I have been in communication with. Your course reps should be talking to you about this.

Joseph Cripps to BC – Is there a way that the course reps could get feedback from students without us emailing? There are students who are and want to be involved in this because we have a petition with over 200 signatures so surely there must be a way that you could reach out to students?

BC to JC – There are 19,000 students and only four officers. We use the mechanisms we have at our disposal. I can honestly say I am the first one in the office and the last one to leave and you can ask the office staff that. I'm sending emails at 11-12pm at night and I make myself available to you guys all the time.

Update on motions passed in 2015:

DDT - We've discovered that there are motions which haven't been enacted on in 2015. We're working on it now and if anyone is interested in getting involved then please register your interest with us.

Further mention of upcoming activities in the Union:

Global festival update.

Varsity update.

Student Led Learning & Teaching Awards update.

Women's History Month update.



AGM1617/06 Motions Debate

Procedural motion to move motion nine, creation of a new role student director, to motion number one due to its importance. Proposed by Gideon Sassoon and Passed

Motion 9: Creation of a new Role Student Director

Proposer - AQ Khan (K1460789), Saniya Sajjan (K1201560)

Seconder - Daisy Du Toit (Penrhyn Road Officer)

Speech For - **AQ Khan** (K1460789) – (beginning indecipherable) Students have had many issues with the student officers. There are a lot of fights that impact the students. We are not listened to by the officers because of conflict in the office which is led by staff not students. The student trustees all support this motion. There is a lack of accountability to the students and the role is to make them accountable. If they don't work for students then this role will question them. This role should be considered in regards to what they can do for students. Give complete autonomy for campus officers to do what they want and this person will question them and hold them to account while being a figure head for the union

Questions

Kamal Mohammed to AQ – I think there is more to this motion that meets the eye, there will be intricate details that need addressing here. Is this going to be a paid position? Just as you hold the office to account how do we hold this person to account?

AQ to KM – As the motion comes through and is developed we will see. It will be a paid role; it is a part time role. We have left the intricate details off the paper and to the board of trustees. This role is holding the officers to account and the board of trustees will show how accountability is done and what changes/resolves from arising issues.

Ellen Baldwin to AQ – Will they sit on SWIG and SWAG?

AQ to EB – If there are issues that arise with the officers sitting in on SWIG and SWAG and not doing their jobs properly then yes. If no issues arise then no as it will not be necessary.

PT to AQ – I agree that we, the officers, should be held to account more. However, I'm very concerned about the last line of the motion which says that the role will 'have the final say'. How can we say that this role is fair when the person who comes into the role might have an agenda and might undermine the democratic processes of the Union? How does that not threaten the autonomy of the officers?

AQ to PT – There is no personal agenda, there is no benefit. The final say is only there for when there is a disagreement between officers. I'm leaving this university in two months time I have no agenda here.



Statement by Hamad Momin - There is an agenda behind this motion being the final one. That just goes to show that there is no proper chair for who can hold the union to account. I've heard that officers don't even know what they were doing for the first 6 months in their role. It's ridiculous and needs to be addressed.

Student to AQ – Why don't we just have a president & vice president like a normal university?

DDT to Student - In the past elections were very Penrhyn road centric and that is why we have the new structure.

Shanice Lewis-Spence to AQ – I support this role but isn't there a mechanism that students as a whole could vote no confidence in the officers?

No response

Procedural motion to AMEND 'Resolves' to;

- c) Hold full-time officers accountable, observe their progress, productivity and overseeing full-time officers whilst being involved in decision making and having the final say AND resolve any internal conflict with officers.

1. Time frame guidance for motion to be implemented if passed:

- Board of trustees – Thursday 16th March 2017
- Finalising the role and job description – Monday 3rd April 2017
- Advertising the role (Applications open) – Monday 10th April 2017
- Applications close – Monday 17th April 2017
- IF there is 10+ applications, **External Trustees** shortlists 10 candidates for interview.
- IF 10- applications, Interview process starts, **External Trustees** shortlists 4 candidates depending on their participation, experience, and involvement with the student union.
- Election brief/filming/ preparation/campaign starts – Week beginning 1st May
- Election week – Monday 8th May 2017 – Friday 12th May 2017
- Training – June
- Role commences – July

ADD: 7. To consult and involve the original proposer of this motion in the implementation of this motion.

Amendment presented by Jens Cristian Nielsen De Berard – amendment states that Trustee Board would have bigger involvement with selection process so that students could not be bias.

AMENDMENT PASSED

MOTION PASSED



Procedural motion – Wednesday Afternoon’s Free for all Kingston Students bought forward from motion six to motion two. Proposed by Sophia Nasif- Whitestone and Amy Bowers and passed.

Motion 6: Wednesday Afternoon’s Free for all Kingston University Students

Proposer - Haider Chaudhry (Kingston Hill Officer)

Seconder - Ellen Baldwin (K1013933)

Speech For - **Haider Chaudhry** (Kingston Hill Officer) – Keeping Wednesday Afternoon’s free is very important for everyone. You probably work at weekends; you haven’t got time for yourself or time to catch up with your work. This will help that happen and you can be a part of different societies/sports clubs at this time on a Wednesday Afternoon. This campaign will help you to have a break and look after your mental health. Sheffield Hallam conducted research on sports and activities and found that individuals who participated in this were more employable and reported a stronger sense of mental wellbeing.

Speech Against – **Saniya Sajjan** – I agree with what you’re saying but there is no chance of changing student timetables because they’re put into place for a reason. I really do not see students participating in society events every Wednesday afternoon.

Questions

Aditya Tandon to HC - Do you know how many students here are commuter students? Will they really come back to university just for a society event?

Student to HC - The motion is not just for societies it is for students in general to do whatever it is they want to do on their free Wednesday afternoon

BC Comments – It is free time, it is not to make things more difficult than what it needs to be. We want people to back this so it is a commitment to students who want to get involved with university life.

Procedural motion to ADD ‘Resolves’ of;

Provide students with the option to have sports membership cards paid by £5 a month as opposed to £50 at the start of the year.

Amendment presented by AQ Khan

AMENDMENT REJECTED

MOTION PASSED



Procedural motion – Consent Workshops to be bought forward to third motion following the past two procedural motions. Proposed by Holly Duffield and passed.

Motion 3: Consent Workshops

Proposer - Holly Duffield (K1405234)

Seconder - Elizabeth Johnston (K1426717)

Speech For – Holly Duffield (K1405234) – Vulnerable students enter university at 18 years old and are exposed to a very heavy drinking culture living with people they don't know. I'm asking for workshops in welcome week where there is information for students about consent and rape. There also needs to be a victim support group here at Kingston. If any of you watch the news then you will know that this is a prevalent issue amongst universities across the UK. I have spoken to various students here at Kingston who have had experiences of this. It is very much a real issue and happens here too.

Speech Against - **No speech against.**

Questions

Gideon Sassoon to HD – There is always going to be a case where men have had these bad experiences too so is there going to be an option for them to have workshops as well?

HD to GS – Yes, of course there will be a space for men too I want the workshops to be compulsory to all students during welcome week.

Student to HD – Why do the workshops have to be compulsory?

HD to Student - Only for half an hour, it is important in welcome week that this happens because of the dangerous environment that young people are being brought into. Information on safety needs to be provided by the university.

Student to HD– will this be inclusive to all people, including people who don't necessarily define as male OR female.

HD to Student – the motion hasn't got anything to do with gender, it can include everyone.

Another student comments saying how she seconds the motion due to her research at Kingston and across other universities regarding consent and rape amongst university students.

Procedural motion to AMEND 'Resolves' to ;

'To make the workshops noncompulsory

Amendment proposed by AQ Khan

AMENDMENT REJECTED.

MOTION PASSED.



Motion 1 – Kingston University Student Rip-off

Proposer - Gideon Sassoon (K1009705)

Seconder - AQ Khan (K1460789)

Speech For – **Gideon Sassoon** – Julius Weinburg has been promoted to president since he left his post as Vice Chancellor. He is now being paid something in the region of £200,000. This levels on the border of corruption and Julius was responsible for all sorts of corruption, bringing in a team of executives to damage Kingston. Ever since he started here things got worse for students and it is time the Union helped us address this. Julius' salary has increased despite the fact he is responsible for pushing Kingston further down in the university league tables. The Union should make a statement that they condemn this role and investigate whether or not this practice was unlawful. If they discover the practice is unlawful then they should take the appropriate legal action.

No speech against.

Questions

Garrick Alder to GS – Have you seen a job description regarding what it is he actually does?

GS to GA – I haven't seen a job description, maybe it would be possible to find out but it is likely to be elusive. I'm sure he is getting paid to do nothing with our money.

Student to GS – How do you know that Julius is responsible for the league table differences?

GS to Student – I have spoken to many lecturers about this issue. I have been here myself for many years and I have witnessed it too. Ever since he came here he has driven people out and made everything worse. He brings in an external team and things just get bad. I do not have grounded evidence regarding this but everything just points in that general direction. It isn't difficult to come to this conclusion if you look at the timeline of events and how the university has changed. To promote him to a higher salary than what he had at VC is a disgrace.

NO AMENDMENTS

MOTION PASSED



Procedural motion – Prohibit and institute a ban on the use of fur in any and all students current and future projects to be brought forward to motion five from motion seven. Proposed by Simon Plazolles-Hayes and passed.

Motion 7: Prohibit and institute a ban on the use of fur in any and all student's current and future projects.

Proposer - Simon Plazolles-Hayes (K1500898)

Seconder - Jessica Morfey (K1625797)

Speech For - **Simon Plazolles-Hayes** (K1500898) – Every year over 100,000,000,000 animals are trapped for their fur. Companies rise profits and cut costs at the expense of animals. It is neither humane, sustainable, ethical or necessary. Parsons school of design ended their relationship with fur in favour of alternative products. Kingston should take a stance before fur becomes a bigger issue. We can come together and say that fur has no place at Kingston and has no place in the world.

No speech against.

Questions

Kamal Mohamed to SP – I agree, fur is very cruel. Although do we allow students to choose what he or she wants to do? It might be imposing your will on others, what do you think about that?

SP to KH – if we don't ban it we condone it. It is that simple. It isn't necessary; it's bad for the environment, animals, (indecipherable)

Student to SP – Animals will still be killed, what difference does it make?

SP to Student – Students who are going to become fashion designers will not use the product. If people stop buying into it the business goes away because there is no more demand for that product.

NO AMENDMENTS

MOTION PASSED



Motion 6: Improving the laptop loan scheme

Proposer – Summer Ahmed (K1429918)

Seconder - Nishath Choudhury (K1400190) Ramla Mohamed (K1408653)

Speech For – **Summer Ahmed** - I'm here to save you between £5-10 every time you go over your laptop loan. If you're half an hour late it is a £5 fine. I'm trying to bring the fine down to £1-£2 for half hour fine. £5 is too expensive and can buy you lunch for a day with that money. We should at least be given a text message reminder when the laptop is about to run over our time limit so that we can take it back.

No speech against.

Questions

Student to SA – I'm not necessarily against the motion. The £5 fee is there because LRC have a limited amount of laptops so the fine is there to deter people from bringing it back late. I'm worried that if it is lower there will be no laptops at LRC.

SA to Student – I'm all for paying fines but once it is late and there is something against your account you are restricted from using anything else. We need a reminder to let us know when our time is about to run out.

GS to SA – I was in the faculty education committee just this afternoon which says all laptops have been upgraded to windows 10 and now tell you how much time you have left with your laptop.

Student to SA - my comment is that if it is lowered I might swallow the fine because it isn't too much. If the fine is lowered more people will not worry about the fine because it is such a little amount.

SA to Student – You are saying that students only return the laptop because of the high fine. It is down to the student's integrity and your work ethics.

Procedural motion to REMOVE 'Resolves' 3.

For the Union to campaign that the late fees to be reduced form £5 per half hour

Presented by Gideon Sassoon

AMENDMENT PASSED

MOTION PASSED



Motion 7: Banning plastic water bottles from all Kingston University Campuses

Proposer - **Marialsabella Grech** (K1645248)

Seconder - **Ilaria Casagrande** (K1649847), **Astrid Goettsch** (K1648605), **Liselotte Joki** (K1545677)

Speech For - **Marialsabella Grech** (K1645248) - We want to get rid of plastic bottles for sustainability and get more water fountains installed that are in hygienic locations, it is sustainable and we would like to ban the bottles and put in place more fountains, introduce a design competition to get students involved so that everyone knows about it. Sheffield and Leeds have already done this and have put everything in place to ban their plastic bottles.

Speech Against – **Gideon Sassoon** – If you ban the bottles, people will now start drinking all the fizzy drinks. People won't bother bringing bottles because they don't do things that require more effort. The fountains that this university have are awful. I would be waiting 5-10 minutes to fill this bottle in a queue when I should be enjoying my lunch break.

Questions

Student to MG – the whole point of plastic water bottles is convenience. Commuter students want to bring water with them so does that mean they have to throw away their bottles before they come on campus?

MG to Student - We aren't going to stop students bringing bottles onto campus. Having a fountain there means you won't have to pay the money you get your water for free. Plastic is bad for you, they contain BPA and have added minerals in them which are not good for your health.

Patrick to MG – Plastic water bottles are all you can take in exams. Students don't like the taste of tap water.

MG to Patrick – Get a clear plastic bottle.

Richard to MG– I really supports this initiative. This union has a policy to boycott Israeli goods. If there is a campaign about more water fountains, then a part of it has to be that it is ethically sourced.

MG to Richard – we want to organize the conversation and through it spread knowledge. You would be a great addition to this. We have gathered signatures and have risen them from 290. We have gathered them within two hours.

NO AMENDMENTS

MOTION PASSED



Motion 8: Kingston University Staff Cuts and Course Closures

Proposer - Joseph Cripps (K1413094)

Seconder - Richard Donnelly (K1060937)

Speech For - **Richard** (K1413094) – This package of course closures and staff redundancies will not help our education and the students who come here. Courses such as geology, which is highly ranked, (indecipherable)... it seems to attack the economics department and makes other big changes. There is a serious downsizing to the university in terms of the amount of lecturers and students who are allowed in this university. Many lecturers will lose their jobs and standards of teaching will decrease. This is the fault of senior management in the university. Management bring in expensive consultants with no knowledge of what the students in this university want, without consulting students and lecturers and have repeatedly increased the top-down organization of Kingston university. This will mean that 100 lecturers will lose their jobs and a big drop in the standards of teaching. It will mean that postgrads will lose some of their supervisors. We should support teachers who take industrial action and the student union should take an official position and campaign against these cuts.

Speech Against – **Beatrice Carey** - Economics students say they were told there was going to be changes to teaching but there haven't been any changes. This plan is to address bad teaching. I've seen the details of 2020 but signed a confidentiality agreement so cannot comment on that. I'm not defending the entire plan but teaching quality needs to be addressed. There are some changes in plan 2020 that students have been asking for and the plan itself is to address lecturers who haven't been doing their jobs.

Richard – We take the position that the interest of lecturers and students are the same here. It doesn't benefit students if lecturers lose their positions so they can no longer carry out the high quality research that it currently does. Cutting courses and and teaching is not a way to solve bad teaching. If management want to carry out this large scale research then they should be approaching us. Not having conversations with one sabbatical officer and then saying no you can't talk to students because you've signed a confidentiality form.

Joseph Cripps comments on the recent university staff engagement survey, stating that Kingston has an 18% satisfaction rate which is 21% below the national average. He states that the motion is not a defence for bad teaching, but is a motion for students to be heard.

Questions

Student comments– there has been a big failure in how lecturers have been teaching. Students have to teach themselves. The lecturers are having issues and haven't helped us at all. I've seen my personal tutor once and we are paying £9,000 a year. Staff get paid to be here.

Student to JC – The courses being cut and the employment rate – do they correlate? What are the applicant numbers? Do you have any tangible evidence about the quality of teaching going down?

JC to Student – NSS. We have a big history of boycotting NSS. Student engagement with NSS is at an all-time low. In the union there is reluctance to take a stance because of particular individuals.

Student to JC – The rankings are based on the research that the university does. They don't just teach they have to do research. As a PhD student I can see the point about bad teachers, but I can also see the point of the lecturers.



JC – we want a student led consultation. We want students to be heard, that is what we are asking for.

NO AMENDMENTS

MOTION PASSED



Motion 8: Election Reforms

Proposer - Saniya Sajjan (K1201560)

Seconded - Richard Donnelly (K1060937)

Speech For – **Saniya Sajjan** (K1201560) – I’m proposing to have two weeks of elections from now on. One week of campaigning and then a separate week for votes. This is to help solve the problem of people approaching students and forcing them into voting without knowing what it is that student stands for.

Speech Against – **Haider Chaudhry** – (commenting on sabbatical officer position) So you’re trying to say that we have to take two weeks off, because we can’t be in the office whilst running for elections.

SS – I’m not asking you to take two weeks off because you only campaign for one week. Students vote on the second week. You’re not campaigning on the second week and if you’re found campaigning it will be taken as a complaint. Students should be allowed to look at the manifestos and decide who they want to vote for correctly.

Questions

Aditya Tandon – I was working at the elections stall with Steph and a few students came up to us and would just vote not knowing who they are voting for or would tell us that somebody already voted for them.

Student to SS – Votes will go down if people don’t ask to vote. What about the students who don’t get approached and hence will not vote?

SS - For a whole week it is up to you to take the initiative and vote. It is to stop people being pressurised into voting. It is up to the student to vote.

AQ – Last year only 7% of students voted. This year 20% of students voted. There will always be students who never want to vote. Rather than forcing people to vote, it tells students to vote in their own time.

SS – If it is done that way then people would worry more about the quality of who they are voting for rather than just voting because they feel forced. It is up to the individual at the end of the day to have their say.

Student to SS – if I was given a load of stuff to read about elections I would be busy with exams and coursework and wouldn’t take the time to read manifestos and vote. If they weren’t coming up to me face to face I wouldn’t vote at all.

SS – on the first week you should be able to approach people and then people will know who they want to vote for. Then in the second week students can vote for who they want to vote for and can refer to manifestos if they so wish.



Procedural motion to ADD 'Resolves' of ;

'All lecturers should promote student elections. It should be mandatory to inform all students that the elections are taking place and who the candidates are

Amendment proposed by Marte Fjell

AMENDMENT PASSED

MOTION PASSED.



AOB

n/a

