**MEETING OF SGSU COUNCIL**

**Tuesday 17th January 2017**

**6pm - LTA**

**ATTENDEES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FH** | Francesca Harris | General Secretary |
| **IB** | Ishaan Bhide | VP Finance + Student Activities |
| **KT** | Kat Telford | Chair |
| **TA** | Tanisha Amin | VP Education + Welfare |
| **MT** | Mohammed Turki | Surgical Society |
| **LD** | Lowri Davies | Ladies Hockey |
| **ANG** | Alia Nasir-Gonzalez | Marrow |
| **SSh** | Shiffa Shalmel | Paediatrics Society |
| **SSai** | Sarah Saifaddin | Henry Gray |
| **HL** | Hershil Lakhani | Hindu Society |
| **IK** | Inayat Khan | Book Club |
| **SL** | Sarah Lasoye | iFem Soc |
| **SM** | Sid Mao | Street Doctors |
| **CL** | Chantal Liu | RadSoc |
| **SSam** | Sahan Samaraweera | Sri Lankan Society |
| **NM** | Na’im Merchant | Wu Shu Kwan |
| **JJ** | Joey Junarta | Cardiology Society |
| **JS** | Jaskiran Sodhi | Sikh Society |
| **AG** | Adam Gadhvi | KCSoc |
| **AW** | Andrew Womersley | Mens Rugby |
| **CW** | Chloe Wilson | Geriatrics Society |
| **SD** | Saira Dean | Teddy Bear Hospital |
| **DC** | Danny Chan | PoleFit |
| **KJ** | Kate Jones | Sexpression |
| **ZN** | Zain Nisar | Islamic Society |
| **AH** | Alan Hasanic | Friends of Childreach International |
| **MN** | Mustafa Najmoldeen | Modern Languages Society |
| **MF** | Matthew Farrant | Hiking and Walking |
| **BR** | Brad Ross | LINKS |
| **PM** | Phoebe Murday | Ladies Rugby |
| **AM** | Arti Mistry | Athena SWAN |
| **AK** | Anna Kolodziejczyk | GOGS |
| **ES** | Esme Siriboe | GOGS |
| **LChe** | Lilyanne Cheah | Ladies Basketball |
| **LCha** | Lorna Chapman | Tooting Show |
| **JM** | Jess McNaughton | Netball |
| **JK** | Jonathan Khadine | Music Society |
| **WM** | Will Morrell | Boat Club |
| **GB** | Gabriela Barzyk | Representation Officer |
| **AH** | Azeem Hussain | AppSoft Soc |
| **VS** | Vafie Sheriff | SKIP |
| **HM** | Hajra Mabashier | Photography Society |

**APOLOGIES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Christian Union | Mixed Hockey |
| Saving Londoner’s Lives | Tennis Club |
| Climbing Society | Medsin |
| GP Soc | TADsoc |
| HoMed | ACS |
| Dance Soc | Yoga |
| Karate | Red Cross |
| Punjabi Soc | IME |
| Revue |  |

**MINUTES**

Minutes from the previous meeting were AGREED.

**REPRESENATION OFFICER REPORT**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| GB + SSi | GB gave a verbal summary of the written report which can be found below. |

**AGENDA POINTS**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Ijenne Enwerem – Access to JB rooms | **Postponed to next meeting.** |  |
| Samuel Wood – Music Society constitutional changes | No objections to the constitutional changes. | PASSED |
| T4 – Changes to SGSU Awards Committee | IB: Previously awards nominations have been reviewed by the exec and awards are then allocated. This hasn’t always seemed very transparent and we are looking to change this, as well as integrating awards into the May Ball. We will be asking your opinion on a few issues, and today we would like to know how everyone feels about sabbatical officers being eligible for awards.  LCha: I don’t think sabbatical officers should get awards as they are already paid for their work in the SU. We should place more value on whether they work 9-5 hours and may have more time to commit to societies.  KT explained the awards available and how someone can be eligible for each- silver card, colours, gold card, laurels.  ES: I think that sabbatical officers should get the opportunity to be nominated for an award. They don’t necessarily have more time than others. They work 9-5 everyday of the week. Payment is a reward for the job they do day in day out but not for the other things they do.  ANG: If they deserve the award then they should be allowed to be nominated, but the issue is in the image of how it works and there needs to be more transparency. It seems like they’re just being given it but in actual fact that’s not how awards committee works and its a lot more comprehensive than that. We’re not giving awards for them doing things they’re paid for.  CL: I agree – if someone is going above and beyond their job scope and they do really well in businesses they would get bonuses etc and Sabs should get some sort of recognition also. The problem is that not all Sabs should be getting awards just because of their jobs - they should really deserve it.  NMer: One of the tenants of applying an award to someone, in particular Sabs, is they can’t get an award for what they’re paid to do. If they go on to do other things that peers and students think they deserve an award for and they are nominated, then that should be fair. All students being represented rather than just the exec is a good idea and Student Trustees are there to eliminate bias within the committee and add extra representation.  KT gave summary of the points given. No vote taken – discussion point but poll vote to gauge the opinion.  IB: We are also looking to change the process by making all applications anonymous. This would mean that we would be voting blind so would only be voting on the merits of the award not knowing the person. We are also looking to add 10 randomly selected students from the whole student body so if anyone is interested then you can sign up and can be on the panel.  ANG: I think bringing in randomly selected students is a good step in increasing transparency.  Discussion was closed in the interest of time. |  |
| FH – Sports communications for the newsletter | Please could anyone involved with sports teams send any match results/information and photos that would would like to be included in the SGSU newsletter each week send them to sucommunications@sgul.ac.uk |  |
| VS + MD – Volunteer of the Month | At the beginning of the year we started volunteer of the month. You can send in an application to CPOs each month which we look through and decide who deserves the award. This then should make it easier for you when SU awards comes around to see who you might want to nominate for volunteer of the year award. This is something we wanted to make everyone aware of. Deadline for Decembers volunteer of the month award is 31st January. |  |
| SL – Student NSS Poll | Yesterday had a meeting about TEF and the increasing fees. SL explained how the system worked, and the recording of the meeting which explained this can be found on the SGSU website.  One of the main components used to categorise universities into gold, silver and bronze is the NSS. The NUS are encouraging all the SUs to boycott the NSS. George’s haven’t taken a stance on this and I feel there is a lack of communication of what this will mean to our students. I would like a poll to be sent out to students about filling in the NSS and whether we should take a stance I feel that would be a more informed and diplomatic way of keeping students clear about what is happening.  MF: Do you think this is too late now that the NSS has been out for a month?  SL: I think its better late than never and its good to be as transparent as possible so that we have tried to keep people as informed as possible.  ES: are other factors involved apart from the NSS?  TA: The past three years are taken into account so it wouldn’t stop us being categorised.  SL: they use other methods such as investigations undertaken by individual institutions over the year.  AK: Apart from fee changes, what are the other possible consequences that could come from boycotting?  TA: Corey and I did informed ourselves on this as there was a motion from a president of another SU who was writing to the NUS to request a risk assessment before the boycotting went ahead and how it would affect small and specialist universities like SGUL. This request was ignored so we aren’t sure how it would affect us.  JK: iIs there going to be any other effort against this apart from boycotting?  SL: Not that I’ve heard about yet from the NUS, they are just seeing how many universities boycott first.  TA: Something to consider aside from political agendas is that it is just an inflationary rise, most universities and staff agree that it shouldn’t have been linked with teaching excellence, the university isn’t getting any more money they are getting just what they were already but in line with inflation.  SL: I think that its important for us to say that we are not for this decision so the government can know about it. | *Motion form council to request a referendum from the SU to provide more information and ask whether the student body want to boycott the decision:*  *For: 28*  *Against: 0*  *Abstain: 1* |
| GOGs Constitutional Changes | We have added to the events officer role to keep in contact with BUSOG. Apologies if meetings can’t be attended, and quorum for meetings. Things giving more responsibility and developing the roles of committee members and outlining what people should be doing as a member of the society. | **Passed by simple majority.** |
| IB – SU Cash Handling | Last year cheques were no longer accepted by the SU. Cash handling is high risk and complicated. The SU has no longer been accepting cash from any societies. This is a policy which will now be put in permanently. The only cash taken in by the SU is that which is raised by charities officers and on the door of events. Any other money must be transferred into the SU bank account, the details for which can be found on the SU website. The reasons are that it is risky, our safes are always over the limit which causes negative effects on our insurance premiums and it is also very time consuming as many people have to count the money. The whole process takes about three months which means that your accounts aren’t up to date so you don’t know how much money is in your account and this can lead to overspending.  KT explained the options of how to move forward with this and a vote was taken on the motion of council requesting a referendum from the SU to provide more information and ask whether the student body want to boycott the NSS:  *For: 28*  *Against: 0*  *Abstain: 1* |  |
| IB – Sports Officers | Since November we have been down from three active sports officers to two. For the coming future we foresee this being the case so it will just be Will and Ollie doing their roles. Please bear with us during this time. |  |

**AOB**

AW: refurbishment as a result of fees

TA: We haven’t been given the money simply as a result of raised fees, during negotiations of the fee increase we said that if they went ahead with the increase we would like some money ring-fenced so that students could see some immediate results to their student experience. We will be sharing the architectural plans soon and building should begin at the end of this academic year.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

7th February 2017 - SGM

14th February – Steering Group

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 14th February 2017