**MEETING OF SGSU COUNCIL - MINUTES**

**9th May 2017**

**6pm - LTA**

**APOLOGIES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Saving Londoner’s Lives | Francesca Harris (General Secretary) |
| Mindfulness | Volleyball |
| Protest and Activism Forum | Surgical Society |
| SimSoc | UNICEF |
| HoMed | Diwali Show |
| STAR | Comedy Society |
| Oncology Society | IME |
| Bake Society | The Dragon |
| Revue | CU |
| Game Society | Tennis Club |
| Fencing | Athena SWAN |
| Punjabi Society | Men’s Cricket |
| iFemSoc | Ladies’ Basketball |
| MEL Society | Street Doctors |
| WAM Society | Anaesthetics Society |
| Sikh Society | Geriatrics Society |

**PRESENT**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **KT** | Kat Telford | Chair |
| **GB** | Gabriela Barzyk | Representation Officer (clerk) |
| **SS** | Sunil Singh | Representation Officer |
| **IB** | Ishaan Bhide | VP Finance and Student Activities |
| **CBr** | Corey Briffa | President |
| **KS** | Khadija Stone | E&D Officer  |
| **RK** | Ramneek Kaur | Photography Society |
| **VR** | Vikram Rohilla | Punjabi Soc |
| **AR** | Amelia Ram | Sgul Language Society |
| **JM** | Jan Mukiibi | Afro-Caribbean Society |
| **WD** | William Dunkerley | SGUL Mens Hockey 1st XI |
| **AH** | Alina Humdani | SGUL LINKS SJA |
| **ASe** | Anna Searle | Cheerleading and Gymnastics |
| **PM** | Phoebe Murday | Ladies Rugby |
| **SG** | Sam Guymer | Cardiology Soc |
| **JT** | Joe Toms | Mentis (Psychiatry Society) |
| **MB** | Mike Brook | Badminton |
| **CN** | Charles Nicholas | Squash |
| **KB** | Kamran Basharat | Amnesty |
| **JC** | Jean Claude Doukrou | Dance Society |
| **RB** | Rowan Barnett | Pride Soc |
| **MY** | Myma-enchill Yawson | AIDS Orphan |
| **AH** | Azeem Hussain | App Soft Soc |
| **TS** | Tiernan Sheehan | Musical Society |
| **NM** | Naomi Melamed | Jewish Soc / Societies Officer |
| **ASh** | Ash Sithirapathay | Revue |
| **AO** | Abdirahman Osmaari | Isalmic Society |
| **MK** | Mohammed Kermei | ABSoc |
| **ASi** | Ashvini Sivanandan | Tamil Soc |
| **DS** | Dilini Seneviratne | Sri Lankan Soc |
| **IK** | Inayat Khan | Book Club |
| **AK** | Aryaki Kothari | Teddy Bear Hospital  |
| **IA** | Iqra Ahmed | Student Minds |

**MINUTES** from the previous meeting were PASSED

**AGENDA POINTS**

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| --- | --- |
| Representation Officer Report (GB/SS) | SS gave a verbal summary of the written report. |
| Mentis name change to SGUL Psychiatry Society (JT) | JT: We restarted Psychiatry society as it did not function at all last year. It is known as Mentis but we want to change it to Psychiatry Society.JT: I propose to change the name of the society from Mentis to Psychiatry SocietySeconded by CBrPASSED by simple majority. |
| Trustee appointment (IB) | IB: Trustee board is the board that keeps SU accountable. Makes key operational decisions. Normally we have Trustee Zone, there we are allowed to have up to 5 members. Last year we were behind financially. John McDonna changed this. Committee met and made him a Trustee. But we need to get this trough Council in order to make him a Trustee.IK: Can you elaborate on John as a person?IB: John left in April. He is qualified. Has been a manager for lots of other societies. Personally, we could not have done without him.CBr: He managed his business, has all the qualities we needAH: Does he have links with any other universities or just SGUL?IB: Trustees are not employed, it’s not a job, it’s an extra responsibility so he does not have any known affiliation to any other universities. CBr: Does not have affiliation. Each year Trustees need to disclose what they are involved with. Not that SGSU would have influence on stock markets but in this way, we are making sure everyone is accountable. So no, he is not affiliated.Passed by simple majority. John is now a trustee.  |
| Society Dissolutions (Socs) | KT: Society dissolutions. You have been receiving emails from Socs Officers with regards to attendance and documents. If you do not fill in basic society requirements, you are at risk of being dissolved. This is the time when we go through all the societies brought forward by Socs Officers and discuss whether we want to keep the society, also to assess if we, as an SU are creating societies appropriately. Niomi will list the socs, we will discuss them.NM: Sorry for emails, we finally got to this point so we can settle everything. The societies are as follows: **Friends of MSF, Health Partnership Nepal, UAEM, Trauma and Orthopaedics, Art Soc, Persian and Afghan Soc****Sports Socs: Riding, Hiking & Walking, and Wu-Shu Kwan** KT: We will start from top of that list and will vote on each one. Is there anyone here to defend the society- we can extend the period based on discussion. **Friends of MSF**KT: Looks like no defence presentJC: What does MSF stand for?IB: Medicine Soft FrontierKT: Society has been here for a couple of years. Being a doctor internationally not just about NHS in UK. If there is no one to defend this society or you think you might know someone who would be willing to defend it?CBr: I propose we dissolve Friends of MSF Society.Seconded by KSPassed by simple majority**Health Partnership Nepal**KT: In 6 months’ time, if someone wants to set up a dissolved society again, they can.NM: The society is under risk of dissolution due to lack of communication with SU.KS: The society started last year. They have medical students and doctors, in Nepal. Raised awareness of the issues in Nepal. It’s about raising money for Nepal and going out there. They were meant to turn to Community Project but people running it last year were final years so that might be the reason for the lack of communication. Might be worth to seeing if anyone wants to pick it up.KT: No defence or no one who wants to keep it going, does anyone wish to make a proposal?CBr: I propose to dissolve Health Partnership Nepal SocietySeconded by NMPassed by simple majority **UAEM: University Allied Emergency Medicine**KT: Proposed due to lack of communication with SU.CBr: I think it has been taken over by Emergency Medicine Society. JC: I propose we dissolve this societySeconded by ASh Passed by simple majority**Trauma and Orthopaedics**NM: They have given communication but have failed to fill in requirements as an SGSU SocietyCBr: I know the society is an active society. Would be wrong to dissolve them. Perhaps a more strongly worded email from Ishaan and I could do.IB: They are active financially, hold events. Would be wrong to dissolve them.ASh: Can we impose a fine rather than dissolve them?KT: Yes you can impose a fine if you don’t follow constitution, There is a set amount of punishments, i.e. freeze accounts for set amount of time. Ban them from SGSU facilities or Rob Lowe. There are penalties we can give. NM: I think that if we do impose a sanction, it will be unfair as new committee will be penalised not the old oneKS: wondering if you can make it compulsory for next committee to bring in all documents CBr: I don’t see an issue with freezing accounts. IB: I completely get where you are all coming from, but unfortunately this is how societies work. We should stop ourselves from not giving penalty measures. If society makes a mistake, next committee has to deal with it. KT: From discussion, I have a feeling that we want to give a penalty. JT: I don’t see point of abusive measures, as new committee should not be dealing with that.IB: You can have a new committee at any point as there has been no communication, they could have had an AGM already and elected that new committee. It’s about setting an example. Other societies could turn around and say, they’re not doing it so why should we.CBr: There are no negative implications, don’t think we need to penalise but freezing account sounds like a good ideaKT: You can do the following, set a fixed fine from account, freezing account, barring from using facilities booked by SU, proposal to council to dissolve.ASh: I think perhaps something like freezing will work better rather than a fine as if they send in a constitution, they can get account to un-freeze. JC: Do we have to make a decision now?KT: Yes, a lot of warnings have been given so we have to make a decision now.JM: I propose we freeze accounts of Therapeutics and Orthopaedics until their constitution is received.Seconded by AOPassed by simple majority **Art Soc**NM: Lack of communication from Art Soc. JC: I am a member and they have run events throughout the year. GB: Yes they are active, they are having an AGM on Monday I believe. Would we wrong to dissolve them as they have run events and there is interest from Freshers to keep it going next year. JC: Maybe we should stop them from using facilities until they submit their risk assessment. ASe: Cheer has two emails, we look at one more than the other. Maybe contact Artsoc and see if they don’t know about this as they have not checked. Removing SU facilities sounds like a good idea as this is something they use. NM: I thought that might be the case, new and old domains have been formed for the society emails. Also, committee forms from handovers have not been received, means we might not have right contact details. CBr: Wan to raise a point about accounts- have they been active?IB: Not this year.IK: I propose we stop Art Soc from using SU facilities until they hand in their documentation, including constitution and risk assessment. Seconded by DSPassed by simple majority **Persian and Afghan Soc**NM: Have not given in risk assessment. Have been active this year and they kept their communication. IK: Since newly started and have not filed in risk assessment, we can stop them from using activities as they use facilities. IB: So I understand where you are coming from but we don’t know what activities they are doing. Not covered by insurance until risk assessment is handed in. It’s probably the most important document in terms of societies.JC: Did they respond to risk assessment email? They might be confused. NM: I sent them an example. They have responded to constitution but not to risk assessment. CBr: Risk assessment is probably most important doc. We should probably impose a fine on them and all other socs who have not given their risk assessment in.MB: are you able to give more than one penalty at the time?KT: Yes you can, all up to Council todayAH: what amount of fine can we give?KT: Ishaan can give you an idea about thisIB: There has been no financial activity, they have not used the £40 budget.JC: Can we freeze account and block facilities usage.JT: better to stop facilities rather than finance, as they are not using financeNM: but if they have not been active financially or using facilities- maybe we should dissolve.AH: Blocking them from carrying on with the use of facilities might make more senseJC: Do we have any evidence of them using SU facilities? IB: I will check the online room bookings now. Appears that they have not booked any rooms. DS: I know the President of society, not sure if they have done any events but I know that they want to carry it on next year. President extremely passionate. AH: if we dissolve it, when can it be reopened again? KT: They can propose again in 6 months time. Up to Exec to pass it as a society again but if dissolved, will not be an SU Society till that point.ASh: I propose that we block Persian and Afghan Soc from using SU facilities until they hand in their risk assessment. Seconded by CBrIB gave a one minute speech against the proposal: I feel that we should also freeze their account as it would stop all activity. Even though they are not using things. Hand in their risk assessment. Facilities thing is not enough. Accept: 7Disagree: 14Abstain: 2Proposal rejected by simple majorityJC: I propose we stop them from using facilities and freezing account until risk assessment Seconded by CBrAccept: 18Reject: 3Abstain: 0Passed by simple majority**Riding Soc**NM: I think similar reasons as to previous societies. Sports Officers said there has been a lack of communication. IB: They have been financially inactive for as long as I can remember, point of information. KT: Does anyone know if it’s an active society?NM: Sports Officers have said that they have not been communicating at all.ASh: I propose that we dissolve Riding SocSeconded by WD Passed by simple majority **Hiking & Walking** NM: Same reasons. No constitution or risk assessment.MB: I think they did a trip to three peaks and have used SU minibus.JC: I think I know a few people who are involved in the society and are passionate. I know they were there at Freshers representing the soc.IB: Point of info, they have been run by one individual for the past 5 years. He has now graduated. Met him a while ago this year before he graduated, he said he needed to hand stuff in. ASe: The problem is, what room will they use, they don’t really use accounts, what sort of punishment could we give. Minibus perhapsKT: Minibus is under SU facilities. ASh: Following from Ishan, If they have only one identifiable society member. It should be dissolved. And if freshers come round and want to set it up again, they can wait out and set it up again. IB: Ironically, they have run 3 peaks event every single year. Matthew Farrant is the only committee member. ASh: if it’s one trip in a year, do they need to be a society for that? They can do that as non-society. CBr: I personally think if there is one person running it, we should dissolve it. If someone wants to come in, they can create it again. AH: it’s like Persian and Afghan Society. There is a lot of interest. Don’t think it’s fair to dissolve if the event happened and people have been involved. WD: If we dissolve, it’s still only 6 months so that would be November, they can still do 3 peaks. Dissolving, if someone wants to start it again, they can still get all the documents in on time and start again. CBr: I propose we dissolve Hiking and Walking Society. Seconded by WDAccept: 13Reject: 5Abstain: 2Passed by simple majority **Wu-Shu Kwan**NM: they have not sent in risk assessment or constitution and have not spoken to Sports Officers throughout the year.IK: What do they do as a society?KT: Marital arts, every Tuesday in AHR, training and used to grade people. Similar to Karate. CBr: Doesn’t Na’im run this?KT: I am aware that he is the President of the Soc, he stated everyone involved is a final year. So if no one is present to pick the society up, he thinks it should be dissolved.CBr: I propose we dissolve Wu-Shu-Kwan Society Seconded by ASeAccept: 18Reject: 0Abstain: 1Passed by simple majority |
| Steering Group (GB/SS/ KS) | KT: Steering Groups are totally governed by you guys. This is the opportunity, in a safe and open space to discuss anything you’d like and report it to Representation Officers and E&D Officers who take it to Exec and other places. GB: We have a small agenda to discuss things and to get people thinking. KS: We will try to cap the meeting at 7.30pm. This is the third steering group. We are here to collate feedback and see if anything can change, these are the 9 protected characteristics as you can see on the board. Making sure we can guard them. Is there anything where you feel you have seen something or have been discriminated against from the list?**NUS President apology** SG: I think religion, membership with and of NUS is detrimental of equality. Current president is using terms and anti-Semitic environment. I feel like the NUS president does not support the equality view. Like other unis have done, we should have a view on this. We need a strong statement. KT: Does anyone in the room feel they don’t know much about this? Can you give us some context?SG: president is Malia Bouattia. She has appeared across a lot of different media has been asked about the connections to Muslim and Islamic points. She has raised points about Israel. I feel that if we are affiliated with the organisation, by doing nothing we are helping to give the image that this is synonymous with state of Israel. KT: NUS is the National Union of Students. Unis across country sign up to belong to NUS. We had a point that new President has done things which may be questioned.CBr: I was the lead NUS delegate. She is the outgoing president as of 2 months down the line. I agree Malia was ‘muddied’ by the press and there were things she said when she was young which came back to haunt her. I don’t necessarily agree with everything that has been said, she apologised for things she said when she was young, she is now older than me. It has been brought up at the NUS conference, particularly Jewish hate crime, which I think will be looked at by the new committee. New Vice President of Welfare is Jewish and she is making sure this is going to be tackled. You can’t believe everything you hear in media. I had numerous communication from Malia. Received an apology letter. I believe disaffiliating is something very drastic. These are big unions which can manage their financial situation. KT: People are thinking what do we get from NUS. Very broadly, Corey or Ishaan, what do we get from NUS?IB: We get trading, deals, school shop and school bar are in place because of NUS. It would be very financially crippling for us to disaffiliate. We get training for our officers through that also. CBr: Point on that, it is national level. I said in one of my emails that there have been motions passed to improve outcome on bursaries, motion to support nursing students, international students who are having their fees uncapped. There are things which we funnel through the NUS, we get a lot of merchandise, campaign, and marketing material which we would not otherwise be able to afford. All which we get from NUS.KT: There are a couple of options, disaffiliation request would have to go towards union and be discussed at AGM. Corey mentioned apology letter, Council can request to see that letter. SG: I think on significant level, it says something about the organisation to stand by her throughout the length of this. The only appropriate action for her while she is still the President is to come to SGSU and apologise personally. I think through efficiency savings we can live without deals, we can renegotiate our terms. For example, is generation vote essential? Perhaps if we cut back and give more power to societies and regulations, we could have more money and we could refine our NUS relationship. KT: Complex issues- we have female NUS delegate, E&E officers, President who have been to different conferences and listened to thoughts. CBr: This will already go through AGM to be discussed there.KT: You can attend AGM and raise this point again. For now we can raise it as discussion point or if see if there is anything. SG: I would like to propose a new motion for Malia Bouattia to come here and apologiseSeconded by IKSG gave a 1-minute speech for the proposal: I gave thought to what you said, and I think my proposal will be rejected but our affiliation with her, on moral and ethical level for the remaining 2 months needs to be considered. She should come and apologise. Jewish students at other universities have been extremely upset. How would we feel if she referred to SGUL as Muslim, Christian or any other sort of outpoint. CBr gave a 1-minute speech against the proposal: Logistics of getting her here, is that what we stand for as an SU, to bring someone here and essentially holding her against her will. Do we feel this is right to do as a Union, when she has already apologised to all unions nationally through a letter. She has done a lot for NUS, including a lot of welfare issues which should not be overlookedAccept: 1 Reject: 15Abstain: 4Proposal has been rejected. **Gender Neutral Toilets** KT: It is still going to be raised at AGM. Any other points? These are 9 protected characteristics. Any points? Age? Disability? Gender reassignment?CBr: In line with that, gender neutral toilet- is that something we would like to continue our approach in. Receptionist Lee said that students approached him and expressed distress at the fact that we have no gender-neutral toilets. As a forward thinking uni, perhaps we should consider this again. Should we, as SU, put pressure on uni, to press uni to make this a more serious issue to reconsider again.KT: We have a budget to do 2nd floor, it has been proposed to add gender-neutral toilets which will be discussed at AGM.JC: Could we make a motion to discuss this at AGM?KS: Is there going to be more info about this at AGM?CBr: At AGM, people can make proposal and any motions will be passed on to next year’s sabbatical officers which they will have to mandate. JC: I propose we put pressure on university and the SU to continue this discussion and have a more direct approach to gender-neutral toilets. Seconded by AH Accept: 18Reject: 0Abstain: 1Passed by simple majority **AP: Corey, Ishaan, Tanisha, Fran to organise meetings and have communication with key staff in relation to gender-neutral toilets.** And to provide an update at next Council on what they have done. Joe: Does this mean that they will chase it up and bring back information by next meeting?KT: Officially action pointed by me just now so yes, they will have to report back**AP: Top 4 to raise gender-neutral toilets at AGM****Liberation Officers****Women’s**KS: 4 new role ideas have been brought forward to be considered by SU.GB: Originally proposed by NUS Delegate Sarah Lasoye, we want to discuss it here and see what people feel about them.KS: First role suggested it Women’s Officer, someone who self identifies as a woman, works to defend rights of women and such. You can see the outline brought forward to SU in the slides. Essentially to be an officer in support of womenIB: I have huge problem with first point raised. It would be discrimination. Someone might be able to do a lot of work for the role. Anyone and everyone should be able to run for whatever they want. Feels like this is hampering progress. Should not be limited or be exclusive. CBr: It would also be only women who are allowed to vote for the Women’s Officer or anyone who self identifies as woman.WD: Is there going to be a Men’s Officer as well? In the interest of you have to represent all views. KS: These are the one being put forward. There are few more that have been brought forward including LGBT+, disability, BME but have not had Men’s Officer suggested. BME is Black Ethnic Minority. JC: This is general point for all the roles, is it that for each role, anyone can run? Is anyone with proof of interest able to run for these?KT: At the moment, they are only written as what can be seen on the board, so only those who identify can be elected. But that is down to you. JT: Someone was saying about self-identification, how will we enforce that?CBr: Everyone will be able to go onto elections. There will be a self-identify box so you will have to tick the box. It is your choice so you can click yes/no. It is purely down to yourself. So if you were to say, I want to have a motion, you can still present that at AGM. TS: For the Women’s Officer role point. There should be Men’s Officer to represent, following on from that, we’d need a gender-neutral role also in the view of equality. Where do we draw the line. KT: Point of information. Equality and Diversity HR Policy, developed last year contradicts the idea of selecting one group, anyone of any background or identity can run for anything so we’d have to edit that document in order for this to work and in order to pass a Women’s Officer and such. CBr: I think where Sarah came from, we need to look at individual groups. Societies have disadvantages in particular areas. This is why you would not necessarily have a Men’s Officer. You could argue males have had it easier than females for years, don’t think anyone would disagree with that. It’s about filling in the gap. It’s up to you to decide if experience for man is any less than that of female and if we need an officer when 70% of students are female, is it a disadvantage? Something for you to think about.JC: Is it possible to change the descriptions so they say it is for anyone who is or identifies with those groups?KT: Yes, we can make a motion proposal, you can edit this and tailor it.JT: This needs to be reflected in whether you want to identify etc. Gender identity is complex.GB: Following from point on identity, when we discussed the role, some people might not be comfortable with running for LGBT+ for example, as they might not be open about it. So it’s about filling in the rubrics which might be difficult. IK: In line with policy, anyone should be able to run for this. It might be sensible to have GB: In the original meeting, Sarah said that in order to represent someone, you might not have certain experiences if you do not identify as that. So in order to represent someone you have to fall into that category. We had a long discussion on this.CBr: This is in line with a lot of Students Unions across nations, in line with NUS, other unions not that we have to apply this but point to considerOpinion poll, on whether this should stay as only women can only vote for Women’s OfficerShould stay as it stands, so only those who identify can vote and run: 3Disagree, make it so anyone can apply or vote: 18Abstain: 1JC: not about this role in particular, in general. This is not to change any of the current exec role. Is this a new role, would this be an addition?KS: YesASh: On paper it says anyone can apply, but in reality only women might apply for the roleEquality and div so anyone can run**LGBT+**JT: Can we propose it as blanket motion for all of them as majority may view it in same way?Opinion poll: The characteristics to stay as they are, disagree if you think it should be changed in some way. Accept: 4Reject: 18Abstain: 0TS: What would E&D Officer then do if there are all these other officers present? CBr: they would still have a fundumental role across the board. They would still stay. As those are areas of society that have shortfalls, life is hard for these individuals. This is why the movement is going in that direction. Equality for all students. If you elect someone who is a strong activist, for example, E&D can still overlook this.TS: I was wondering if Year Reps are accountable to Gabby and Sunil, Representation Officers who would these officers be accountable to?KS: To the leader of their zone which would be Representation Zone.CBr: Imagine a representation board. For example new office being developed for students but no members on the decision board are students. Imagine this case for women or LGBT+ etc. JC: I am current president of LGBTQ. Massive thing we have with George’s. A lot of people are afraid of coming towards us or attend events. So with this role it can’t be an open meetings as LGBTQ+ people might feel people will judge them for entering the room. **BME**IB: I was at the Exec meeting, it’s Black and minority ethnic- I have a problem with title as it might suggest some ethnic minorities might be represented more. I want it to just be Ethnic Officer so it’s more representativeJC: I feel like it says Black or Ethnic as black people superficially have faced more injustice previously, not because they are more represented.IB: Completely get that, but I know a lot of Asian people who come from the same situationJC: Does Jewish count as ethnic minority?JT: Judaism can be race or religion or both.SG: I’d like to suggest that due to persecution of students in previous years, we could have a Jewish Officer. Given that I have no connection to Judaism, I have no interest in that. IB: Just like my colleague has demonstrated, he is not Jewish himself but he manages to fight the cause so this goes back to the point that if people do not identify a certain way, it does not mean they cannot fight the cause. KS: Wanted to bring your attention to sexual assault survey brought forward by final year, was sent around by Tanisha. We found there were issues. That was brought to uni so that it will be looked at in more details. Catalyst funding part of that. JC: Did that include male sexual assault?GB: Yes, that would include it also. **CBr: I propeose that we further discuss the segregation of Jewish students at the AGM** Seconded by IBJC: Back to catalyst fund. When you talk about catalyst fund, is it on and off campus?CBr: You can apply for funding, we received £9000 from HEFCE, so we have a lot of money to tackle training. On SU level (where funding won’t be funnelled into)KS: What are your thoughts on Disabled Officers role?ASe: Would it include dyslexia and would that support students with accessing stuff?JT: if we have all these roles, how do we deal with confidentiality?ASh: How do we deal with sensitivity issues, all the roles that have been proposed so far- these are students. Legalities, they will be dealing with sensitive info. Will they be paid for training and stuff?KT: point of information, currently E&D attend training so we can, make it a constitutional pointCBr: we are missing point of roles, they are not there to be confidential advice. They are there to make sure institution is taking into account all these issues. Some issues you may not face unless you fall into that category, I agree we need to think about funding. IK: Particularly with this role, it should complement what university offers. The officer should signpost rather than taking on the role, so it would not be entirely condiential. IB: do we really need the officers if we have Campaigns and E&D, we can develop the current roles?KT: Any final points?ASe: If you can’t help women because you are not a woman, this is up to the people to decide that. It should be designed in the way that anyone can run but the groups vote. IB: Playing devil’s advocate, women have a lot of issues but in this case, we also need a Men’s Officer. For example, male suicides, instances of male rape. It’s quite stigmatised i.e. male rape, everyone has the right to be represented. IK: The whole student body should vote for them, just because we don’t identify does not mean we are not aware about the issues. In line for equality and diversity.JC: can we have an abstain vote for the voting process for these roles?CBr: There is abstention available. GB: And you don’t have to vote generally, it’s your option to vote. JT: In the document, the 4th line which lists African and such, if you are considering the title of ethnic minority, can it be reflected in description?TS: Would it be worth to have religious officer also? IB: Accountable to everyone and should be a point to everyone. IK: BME officer should be in line with other unionsJC: To do with all of these, they’re relationship with societies, are they with people, what would be their connections or affiliations? CBr: We forget they have to self-identify, abstain button is same as no response. I also think that for example if BME students make up 40% of SGSU population, is it fair that 100% of students then get to vote who influences those students? Don’t think it’s fair. You influence someone’s accountability. You might completely disagree with the role but get to influence who represents the individual. Something to think about.  |

**AOB**

International Students Email

CBr: If anyone is an international student. An email has been sent out today, as I am sure you would have seen. If not check out your inboxes, meeting set up for tomorrow I urge you all to go if you’re an International Student as it’s important.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 6th June 2017

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**Representation Officer Report**

**Introduction**

Hello, this is Gabriela Barzyk and Sunil Singh and we are your Representation Officers.We’ve been Year 1 Biomedical Science Year Reps last year and hope to use our experiences to help you. As Representation Officers, we will attend Council, Senate and Executive meetings and share important information between the different teams. We will also look after Year Reps. We love to chat and keep you updated so you can contact us anytime.

**What have we done since the last meeting**

* Contacted T-year Year Reps regarding our Action Point on improving personal tutor system. Have been sent poll details and minutes from MBBS Personal Tutor lead meeting.

Paul Holmes will be making a survey for MBBS (and maybe all other subjects) to check on how they feel PT system is doing and what needs improving. Any details of the survey will be passed to MBBS5 T-Year Reps who will pass it onto us once they receive more info.

* Looking over our past reports ahead of AGM report coming up
* Took minutes for Fran at last Council and sent that back to be put on website
* Set a date for next Steering Group (9th May, Council), working on promo/ info to send out and have liaising with E&D Officers
* Contacted SPACE about off-site breastfeeding facilities email delay and resolved with Tanisha following a short meeting
* Chasing up outstanding Senate Social payments from Year Reps, asked Tanisha to post on Senate and will follow up with individuals
* Received an email from James Watson/ P&F Forum about P&F not having much interest and being at risk of dissolution in future years. Have reached out to those we think might be interested in taking the society forward and replied to James.
* Add in newsletter/ create an online space to share on website potentially; we have contacted James about outcome of the AGM
* Contacted Year 1 Year Reps about promoting
* Both of us have Helped out at Part V
* Answering people’s queries about transfer applications
* Collected a quote and pic from T-Year Year Rep for the elections pack for Corey
* Helping people with module options following module allocation release for BMS/MBBS Year 2
* Awards Committee

**Summary from:**

**Exec 18th April**

Finalising Democracy Officer role

May Ball planning

Society floats have been returned and issued

Showcase is on 28th May!

Society dissolution following handovers and constitutions- should be happening at the next Council

Charities Officers are helping to organise Danceathon with Spardha Kumar (happening on 12th May)

**No Exec on** **2nd May!**

**Societies presented**

No new societies presented

**Senate Summary**

* BMS Yr3: There was an issue wit TPP exam: the essay questions are worth 50% of exam and usually Dr Moffat releases 9 possible questions, 3 per subtopic, of which 1 will be in exam. This year Dr Moffat releases the 3 qs that will be in the exam by accident.

Year Reps contacted Paris Ataliotis regarding this, who replied that assessment grades are criterion-based and not relative ie other students’ grades will not be affected. He also said that exam consists of SBAs and SAQs as well which count for the other 50% of the exam. New qs would put students taking the module at a disadvantage as they have already spent time in preparation for the exam and this type of exam, where students have seen the question beforehand is used commonly in areas such as humanities (he gave references for this). He then stated that “the questions do not rely simply on factual recall, but in developing and arguing a position, which use both scientific knowledge and its critical analysis/application which is essential for the module. **Students will therefore be marked accordingly.**

* Year 2 HSC Reps addressed an issue with placements about number of assessments and repetition
* Year 2 MBBS5 Reps planning on hoodies for those who are interested
* MBBS4 INTO Reps found lack of professionalism from PBL tutors, so we asked Lynne to encourage all tutors to have PBL group functioning review the following week
* F years: pushing for buying tickets; looking for DJ and photographer
* Personal Tutor System: had a discussion following Senate Action Point, a couple of ideas have been raised, followed with a discussion with Dr Aileen O’Brien. These included Buddy Scheme/ involving Student Minds/ training students; it has been suggested that staff members offer varied support and involvement. Some things are not taken to personal tutors as people don’t feel comfortable. Tanisha to follow up in meetings and keep Senate updated, Year Reps who want to sit on the meetings about this issue are to email Tanisha.
* Admissions for Parameds and Physios has been extremely frustrating due to mixed communication and little/mixed information. It is felt that the admissions team and events team is not thoroughly organised as Offer Holders day saw a lot of confusion in potential students. Year 1 Physio Reps created Instagram and videos to get offer holders informed.
* DBS checks need to be reviewed as some students who are not residents in UK, i.e. following movement from Ireland or Gibraltar have experienced issues with confirming documents.

**What we’ve coming up in the next month**

Revision, Exec, Senate, replying to queries, May Ball, acting on Steering Group points, elections promo