

Student Council Minutes

March 27 2023

Introduction

The Chair, Merian Alit, welcomed everyone, and asks them to register their attendance. Noted that the meeting is hybrid (partly online) so to keep this in mind during discussions.

The Chair then went over the agenda for the meeting which included elections overview, feedback session on the assessment period, updates from Officers, and an overview of the lapsing Union policy.

Elections Overview

The Chair introduced Megan Robertson, the Campaigns & Democracy Coordinator, gave the elections overview. They went over the recent Spring Elections, highlighting that it was the highest turnout in ten years. The students elected were listed off and included: -

- International Student's Officer: Anuvinda Thangavelu
- Women's Officer: Ruchita Doddamani
- BAME Student's Officer: Haleigh Gregory
- Distance Learning Officer: Sheeba Asad
- President: Archie Robinson
- Education Officer: Prachi Bhatt
- Liberation Officer: Jade Thomas
- Wellbeing Officer: Hoor Pathan
- Activities Officer: Jack McDonald
- Sports Officer: Joe Hyett

Megan then explained that the Postgraduate Part-Time Officer is elected in October but there will also be by-elections for Accessibility, Mature & Part-Time, LGBT+, and Trans & Non-Binary. Megan thanked students for their participation.

NUS National Conference Update

Chair then invited Rhiannon to give a brief update on the NUS National Conference. Rhiannon explained that her and four others attended the conference. It consisted of panels and workshops

where delegates could give feedback. Sessions included Cost of Living and discussed on policies submitted to conference. Rhiannon explained that we will be going back to delegates for their take on it and provide an update on this soon. This is discussed in more depth during Rhiannon's Exec update below.

Officer Updates

The Chair then moved onto the updates section from the Part-Time and Executive Officer Team.

Sheeba Asad – Distance Learning Student's Officer

Sheeba has recently started a Facebook Group to help connect students across course and provide a space for specific feedback. This week will also see the first events for Distance Learning Students in the form of two virtual mixers.

Jade Rowe – LGBT+ Student's Officer

Jade has worked on getting new furniture for the LGBT Space in Charles Wilson and is running a survey with Ash (Trans & Non-Binary Officer) on LGBT+ friendly services in Leicester to support new students starting at the University. This can be found on the Liberation page of the SU website.

Ashton Mallard – Trans & Non-Binary Student's Officer

As well as running the survey with Jade, Ashton is updating the Trans & Non-Binary signposting guides which will be posted soon. For LGBT+ History Month, Ashton ran a successful art event at Attenborough Art Centre.

Chair finished updating on this work by highlighting the Part-Time Officer Instagram @leics_pto

AnneMarie Deeb – Education Officer

- School Rep Promotions – these have been going well with Reps recognised each month and March's winner to be announced soon.
- Voice and Superstar Awards – awards seasons is coming up with these two main awards. Here you can nominate students who have worked to raise the voice of students this year and, for the latter, staff who have made a difference to your learning experience. Nominations for Superstar Awards close 31 March and Voice Awards 17 April.
- Calculator Policy – due to recent feedback for students during assessments the SU has been looking into the University's calculator policy. It's become clear the policy is decades old and so AnneMarie will be working with the University to update this to support students.

- TEF Action Plan – after consulting with students and the report having been submitted, the action plan following this has now been established so the University can work on improvements relating to your feedback.

Rhiannon Jenkins - President

- Sticky Campus – Rhiannon updated that improvements would be coming to the Global Lounge, a new game room is coming to Percy Gee Building, and a new multi-use space would be coming in September. Rhiannon has also been working with Nic and the University to increase prayer space room provisions as well as improving current spacings. Finally, Campus Life Ambassadors will also be getting hired to support student events and communications.
- NUS National Conference – Rhiannon continued her update of the conference by explaining that she was disappointed by the lack of transparency and accountability of Officers as well as finances. She focused on conversations around promotion of grassroots support for national campaigns.
- Student Experience Board – the University has created a focus group to ensure student experience is at the heart of operational delivery. A mirror (adjacent to main group) board will be set up consisting of just students to make sure student feedback is prioritised. Further updates will be shared in future student councils.

Archie Robinson – Sports Officer

Chair noted Archie has sent his apologies as he is not in this week but Megan provided an update for him to highlight recent work:

- Parasports Weekend
- Elected to President for 2023-24
- Varsity 2023 - we won! (obviously)
- #ThisBodyEnablesMe Campaign
- Secured £5k for Sports Awards to help reduce ticket prices.

Jack McDonald – Activities Officer

Chair noted Jack sent apologies due to supporting a student event (Leicester Strictly) tonight. He provided the below update, read by Rhiannon:

- Update regarding grant funding, the University as committed to an additional £10,000 to cover some applications.
- Leicester Strictly is happening tonight (Jack to host) and is being put on by DanceSport with support from Kris Wong in the Activities Team.
- The Big Sleep fundraiser is taking place on Tuesday (28 March) with time to still sign up. This is to raise money for the local charity The Bridge to support homeless people in Leicester and organised by the University, DMU, and the SU.
- Math students were surveyed in February and Jack has provided an action log to the Maths Department following their feedback. This is due to the University noticing a lack of engagement from Math students.
- Lastly, Jack is working on committee training and holding discussions with different University staff and teams about what can be added to it. This includes teams like volunteering, employability, events, and sustainability.

Hoor Pathan – Wellbeing Officer

Chair noted Hoor sent apologies due to supporting a private appointment. She provided the below update, read by Rhiannon:

- Noted she had been re-elected for a second term.
- Delivered Sexual Violence Awareness Week last month with over 200+ students engaging across activities.
- Progress about period products as she has been having discussions about expanding budget for this for next year, and a new design for dispensers to be fully inclusive and non-gendered has been sent off to get printed!
- Hoor and Anne Marie have been busy planning and prepping for the first ever Medics Destress and for May Destress Week! Keep your eyes out for more information next month!
- Finally, Hoor delivered a Neurodiversity awareness activity last week to engage students in myth busting and learning more about neurodiversity and this had over 70 students attending!

Nic Farmer – Liberation Officer

Chair noted Nic sent apologies due to participating in a student event (Leicester Strictly) tonight. He provided the below update, read by Rhiannon:

- Black Student Experience Working Group – this has been created in collaboration with university to hear the views of our Black Students on a variety of topics. Sessions are being held on different topics, all of which can be found on leicesterunion.com/whatson. You do not need to attend every session; students can attend ones right for them.
- Midlands Racial Equality in Medicine Conference – in collaboration with MedRACE, Nic held a stall at the conference. It was a great event with speakers from across the midlands.
- NUS Liberation Conference – if interested in attending you can reach out to Nic. It is being held on April 17th -18th in Blackpool. You must be part of a Liberation group and there are 6 places available (now full). Email nf101@leicester.ac.uk to find out more, the deadline is March 30th.

Leicester Strictly

Final agenda point was highlighted by Merian. This was to flag that Leicester Strictly was happening after council until 9 PM and costs £5 on the door.

Close

Merian thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The next meeting will be scheduled for Semester 3 once students return from break.

Location TBC (to be confirmed).