

**Union Council Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009****100 Orders of Council****101 Apologies for Absence**

Emily Brown

**102 Minutes of the last meetings**

Approved

**103 Matters Arising****I. Associations Review – Brian Parkinson**

There are five different associations. Brian Parkinson stated that Union Council mandated a review of the effectiveness of these associations to Brian's predecessor but this was never done. Brian Parkinson explained that the associations elections were publicised and run better this year. All associations were run smoothly and effectively to meet the requirements of each associations. Election dates have been changed to elect some positions in February and September, so work can be done over the summer.

**II. Returning Officer – Jamie Morgado**

Jamie Morgado explained that at last council, council decided that the board of trustees would decide who would be elected as the returning officer. The Board of Trustees decided that the NUS would be the best option and Jamie Morgado would be the acting returning officer.

James Carroll asked what would happen if the acting returning officer ran in the executive elections.

Jamie Morgado replied that traditionally the President or an executive member would take on this role.

**104 Chairs Comments**

**I. Ratification of Councillors** – Nick Holland explained at 5pm today, the new union councillors were ratified by the old union councillors.

**II. Executive Elections** – Nick Holland explained that all possible candidates or students even thinking about running for exec should no declare intent or discuss the options with other students. The candidates pack will be coming to next council but all students should be aware that if discussion do occur and come to the attention of the chair, discipline procedures will be made.

**105 Strategic Plan Presentations**

Nick Holland explained that due to technical reasons, the executive videos were unable to be shown.

**106 Executive Questions**

None

**200 Constitutional Motions**

**201 Revised Media Constitution – Proposed by James Spokoini, Seconded by Jamie Morgado**

James Spokoini explained that the outline had just been finalised. The Media Senate passed the document by a majority vote. An amendment was made by James Spokoini to part 4 for the constitutional. To be removed: Composition – Any changes to the composition of a media committee must first be passed at Media Senate with at least 1 month of notice prior to the change being made, as not needed.

James Spokoini explained that previously there had been no information under the heading of composition. The layout was not good and there was not a good explanation of senate and the non-commercial output was added.

No Questions

To pass the Media Constitution

For: Majority

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**Media Constitution - PASSED**

**202 Revised Department Chairs Committee Constitution – Proposed by Chris Peel, Seconded by Jemima Barnes**

Chris Peel explained that previously the structure was not effective as it could be. The constitution now has more emphasise on academic issues rather than the social side. The role of vice chair has been clearly stated.

Oliver Hiscoe asked if quoracy was 40% but to pass a motion was the majority. The quoracy should be 50%.

Chris Peel replied that he would be happy for this change.

Oliver Hiscoe proposed to take the motion to parts and change the quoracy to be 50%.

Vote to Amend

For: Majority

Against: 0

Abstain: 2

**Amendment – PASSED.**

James Carroll enquired why the vice chair does not have a voting right.

Chris Peel explained that the vice chair was more of a secretarial role and a facilitator or socials. The vice chair was elected because of their knowledge of the committee – structure and how it works.

Dan Harris enquired if the document was meant to say that removal of a chair would occur if they missed three consecutive meetings.

Chris Peel replied yes.

Elsa Meserlian enquired what would happen if a department chair was not performing their role correctly and stated that many chairs run for other reasons.

Chris Peel disagreed that department chairs generally run because they are passionate about their department.

James Carroll suggested that a vote of no confidence clause should be placed into the constitution.

Nick Holland asked how this would work.

James Carroll replied that removal could occur with a two thirds majority of the department chairs committee.

Chris Peel replied that he saw councillors point of views but it was the department committee members job to make sure the chair is fulfilling their role not department chairs committee.

Nick Holland suggested that this issue was looked into but the document was passed.

Chris Peel stated that he would look into any under performing chairs.

Vote to Pass Constitution

For: Majority

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

### **Department Chairs Committee Constitution – PASSED**

## **400 Policy Motion**

### **401 Mass Emailing and Text Policy – Proposed by Jamie Morgado, Seconded by Robert Hulme**

Jamie Morgado stated that this was a new policy to stop students getting constantly spammed with information. All emails had to go through the VP: Democracy and communications first. Groups of students over 500 – could only receive two emails a week.

Dan Harris enquired into why part was only applicable to groups of students over 500.

Jamie Morgado replied that this was to do with emails to departments. Emails should be authorised by the VP: Democracy and Communications.

James Carroll stated that the majority of emails go through administrators and that they screen the appropriateness.

Oliver Hiscoe stated that administrators are on university emails and not union emails and so a department could send an email out via the administrator without going through the union.

Jamie Morgado agreed, and stated that the policy was there for more than just departments and for other union sections.

Rich Smith stated that students would get less rubbish and spam from the union as executive members etc would have to limit what they put into emails, which could only be a good thing as the information in emails would be more specific to the user.

Jamie Morgado summed up by explaining this was beneficial for students and the union – more specific targeted emails and texts.

Vote to Pass Policy  
For: Majority  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

### **Mass Emailing and Texting Policy – PASSED**

#### **402 Purchasing Policy – Proposed by Henry Chambers, Seconded by Jamie Morgado**

Henry Chambers explained that this policy was in place year on year. It was to stop over spending by departments but also to allow items that were needed to be bought to be cheap and cost effective.

Huzaifa Essajee stated there was a spelling mistake and proposed this to be changed.

Henry Chambers agreed.

Vote to amend spelling  
For: Majority  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

#### **Amend spelling – PASSED**

Elsa Meserlian asked about the VAT rate being 15%.

Henry Chambers stated that the VAT rate was going back to 17.5% next month.

Dan Harris enquired whether it was better to just put current VAT instead of 17.5%. Henry Chambers stated that the policy comes back every year to council, so was not needed.

Vote to Pass Policy  
For: Majority  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

#### **Purchasing Policy – PASSED**

**403 Athletic Union Social Behaviour Policy – Proposed by Rich Smith,  
Seconded by Jamie Morgado**

Rich Smith explained that there had been problems with student athletes and their behaviour. Welcome socials are optional and enjoyable for students. Committee members are responsible for the new students and must act as supervisors and must be sober. A member of security must be at a welcome social to oversee and all welcome socials must be held on campus. Rich Smith explained that motorway runs were completely out of order and were not allowed and alcohol was not to be consumed on coaches to and from matches. Rich Smith stated the AU president will take action as they see fit.

Oliver Hiscoe asked how this differed from the previous policy.

Rich Smith replied that committee members had more responsibility and more discipline was added to stop any bad behaviour.

Ewan Paterson asked what would happen if students carried on alcohol to the coaches.

Rich Smith stated that the union uses one bus company and that the union was in constant talks with the company and the union would know if alcohol was taken onto the coach. This was beneficial for the company too as it stops rowdy behaviour and damages.

Elsa Meserlian enquired what would happen if the students sorted their own transport to BUCS events.

Rich Smith replied that the union insurance would not cover them.

Faye Higgins enquired what if students drank during the match/before entering the bus.

Rich Smith replied that students do drink before getting on coaches and the union was aware of this. Rich Smith stated he was looking into new drinking guidelines especially at finals, not only for Loughborough but for all Universities. Students who were drunk before getting onto buses could be turned away by the drivers.

Vote to Pass Policy  
For: Majority  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 1

**Athletic Union Social Behaviour Policy – PASSED**

**404 Health and Safety Transport Policy – Proposed by Jamie Morgado,  
Seconded by Henry Chambers**

Jamie Morgado explained that the union must take steps to manage health and safety of those who drive on the Union business. The policy sets out procedures and what is expected of the employees of the union.

Vote to Pass Policy  
For: Majority  
Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**Health and Safety Transport Policy – PASSED**

**600 Other Motions**

**601 Ratification of ISA Elections 2009 – Proposed by Brian Parkinson,  
Seconded by Jamie Morgado**

Brian Parkinson explained that the elections went well and all positions were filled, different to previous years.

Vote to Ratify  
For: Majority  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

**ISA Elections 2009 - RATIFIED**

**602 Ratification of PGA Elections 2009 – Proposed by Brian Parkinson,  
Seconded by Jamie Morgado**

Brian Parkinson asked council to ratify the results.

Oliver Hiscoe asked if they ran smoothly.

Brian Parkinson replied yes.

Vote to Ratify  
For: Majority  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

**PGA Elections 2009 – RATIFIED**

**700 Union Council Sub Committees**

**701 Procedures Committee Elections**

Nominated: Katy McLaughin, Stuart Brookes, James Carroll

Jonny Salmon proposed to take straight to the vote.

Vote to take to the Vote  
For: Majority  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

Straight to the Vote

Vote to Elect  
For: Majority  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0

**Councillors - ELECTED**

**702 Elections Committee Elections**

Nominated: Stuart Brookes, Elsa Meserlian, Jonny Salmon, Andrew Clark

James Carroll proposed to take straight to the vote.

Vote to take to the Vote

For: Majority

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Straight to the Vote

Vote to Elect

For: Majority

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

**Councillors - ELECTED**

**703 Discipline Committee Elections**

Nominated: Emily Brown, Rebecca Worboys, Sam Edmunds, Andrew Clark, Faye Higgins, Ben Gerner, Jason Painter, Peter Childs, Michael Munday, Robert Cafferty, Jamie Finch, Rebecca Bridger, Katy McLaughlin, Dan Harris, Jonny Salmon, Maddy Buckley, Alice Swinscoe, Katie Halliday, Adam-Lucas Pettit

James Carroll proposed to take straight to the vote.

Vote to take to the Vote

For: Majority

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Straight to the Vote

Vote to Elect

For: Majority

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

**Councillors – ELECTED**

**704 Finance and Trading Committee Elections**

Nominated: Dan Harris, James Carroll, Ben Weston, James Barker, Andy Tianhong Lai, Andrew Clark

Jonny Salmon proposed to take straight to the vote.

Vote to take to the Vote

For: Majority

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Straight to the Vote

Vote to Elect

For: Majority

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

### **Councillors – ELECTED**

#### **705 Independent Appeals Committee**

Nominated: Sam Edmunds, Katie Shingfield, Sophie Allen, Faye Higgins, Rebecca Worboys, Andy Clark, Michael Munday, Jamie Finch, Dan Harris, Rebecca Bridger, Emily Brown, Stuart Brookes, Katie Halliday, Alice Swincoe

James Carroll proposed to take straight to the vote.

Vote to take to the Vote

For: Majority

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

Straight to the Vote

Vote to Elect

For: Majority

Against: 1

Abstain: 0

### **Councillors - ELECTED**

#### **706 Governance Committee Elections**

Nominated: James Carroll, Stuart Brookes, Michael Munday

James Carroll explained that he sat on governance committee last year. Has a good perception of what it is and the way it is moving forward. Very keen to improve governance and is responsible.

Stuart Brookes explained he sat on it last year but didn't get to get as involved as he could. Lots of experience, knows how the constitution works.

Michael Munday explained he was new to union council, but keen to get involved.

Oliver Hiscoe asked the candidates what was meant by the phrase practical democracy and if it had a place in the Union.

Michael Munday explained that sometimes practical democracy needs to occur to allow democracy to move on but it was important to abide by the most important rules.

Stuart Brookes stated he disagreed with the statement. That's the reason he wanted to be on the committee. Keep to the rules.

James Carroll quoted Winston Churchill. James Carroll stated that sometimes its unpractical to follow the rule exactly but should be run as well as possible.

Henry Chambers asked the candidates if there was one specific area of the union that was improving.

Stuart Brookes stated that he felt democracy was massively improved, as shown by the increase in votes and support at union council.

James Carroll stated in the hard financial times that the revenue from the entertainments section was huge for the union and very important as it creates the budget for the rest of the union.

Michael Munday stated he felt democracy has had a huge push this year and was increasing. Department committees needed to be pushed in the same way, union council had been.

Zoë Lloyd stated that all candidates had mention Governance in their speeches and this was something she held very close to her heart. Zoë Lloyd then asked what Governance was.

James Carroll explained that governance was looking at how the union was run – fairly and adequately.

Stuart Brookes replied how the constitution was relevant to the union and the rules the union followed.

Michael Munday explained it was how the union was governed and the rules and regulations that the union had to follow.

George Arnold enquired what contemporary issue will effect the constitution in the next year.

Stuart Brookes and Michael Munday both had no answer.

James Carroll replied that in the economic climate there would be a lack of money/revenue which would effect how the union was run.

Vote to Elect  
For: Majority  
Against: 1  
Abstain: 4

#### **Councillors – ELECTED**

#### **750 University Sub Committees**

None

#### **800 Other Elections**

None

#### **900 Any Other Business**

Chris Peel stated he was going to a rally in London the next day to force a higher education funding debate. In Chris Peel manifesto, he promised to lobby more.

**999 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009