**Minutes**

**Thursday 17th December 2020**

**Zoom**

**Members**

Upwards of 72 members present, including:

59 Student Reps (82% of voting participants)

Alexandra Cazacu (AC)- Chair

Naomie Lebe (NL) - SU President

Chiko Bwalya (CB) - VP Education

Ugo Andy-Eke (UAE) - VP Student Opportunities

Toluwa Atilade (TA) - VP Welfare and Community

Ffion Lister (FL)- Student Rep

William Puchy (WP)- Student Rep

**In attendance**

Charlotte Morris-Davis (Secretary/Democracy and Campaigns Manager)

Emily Cox (Liberation and Campaigns Coordinator)

Kerry Dean (Head of Student Participation)

Roshana Wickremasinghe (Policy Advisor)

Jane de Vekey (Head of Student Voice and Policy)

Emma Davies (Student Opportunities Manager)

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# Welcome and Introduction

## The Chair welcomed the SUBU Summit participants and deemed the meeting quorate

## The Chair introduced the agenda and set out the operational points and the procedures to be followed during the meeting. This included that the results of all votes would be announced via email following the meeting to ensure that only votes cast by voting members were counted and not during the meeting itself.

## Minutes of Previous SUBU Summit

## The Chair invited members to read over the minutes which had previously been circulated and a vote was taken

# Approve: 61

# Reject: 2

# Abstain: 5

## **Minutes Approved**

# Trustee Board Update

# Presented by NL

# Key points noted:

# Focus on safeguarding the financial viability of the Union

# Impact of the COVID-19 on commercial outlets, alongside the cut in the block grant from the university

# Process of redundancy and restructure commenced in order to ensure that the long-term future of SUBU is protected whilst ensuring that our students continue to be supported to the highest possible standard.

# Full-Time Officer Reports

# Presidents Report

# NL presented

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Lobbying BU to subsidise graduation fees based on household income

## Met with relevant people in BU, including marketing and fundraising to discuss best strategies to take this forward

## Meeting in early January to continue planning

## Hoping this will be in place for students graduating in 2021 and continue on in future years.

## Manifesto: Improving communication channels between the Students’ Union and all BU students

## Working closely with BU on this and now there is a SUBU button on iBU app.

## SUBU and BU will now be writing a collaborative email to reach all students and staff

## Manifesto: Developments on a mentorship scheme

## Working with all FTO’s and looking into all mentoring schemes running at Bournemouth University. Refocusing the manifesto point

## This had to change slightly due to the implications of COVID, but is hoping for it to be delivered in 20/21 and will be focusing on this more next semester.

## In discussion with VP Education to discuss how they can collaborate on the various mentoring schemes that are currently in place or in planning stages.

## Investigating the possibility of narrowing the focus of this manifesto point through supporting international students. This would also provide a strong link for VP Opportunities’ work on supporting international students, with the mentoring scheme complimenting the work of the proposed international student survey and the recently passed SUBU policy to support international students in light of Brexit.

## Manifesto: Futureproofing the SU

## Restructuring and redundancy as noted in the Trustee Board Report

## Identifying core aims such as democracy, representation and continue to offer the best support for our students

## Manifesto: Working with the University and Union to improve the international students Hub

## Filmed a video to welcome international students to campus. This will help international students navigate town and campus, containing helpful tips around public transport and how to locate key local services such as supermarkets.

## The release of these videos in the second semester will also coincide with VP Opportunity’s international student survey that also aims to gather feedback from international students.

## Plans on working with BU to support international students. This work is also in collaboration with VP Welfare & Community.

## Policy: Should students support Executive Planning

## Working with FTOs in a collaborative manner to support students through COVID.

## Attended several key BU meetings as a whole team, including a catch-up with the Vice and Deputy Vice Chancellors.

# Vice President Education Report

# CB presented

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Improving the accessibility of SimOn and make sure Student Reps are equipped to fulfil their duties

## Working with SV&P to ensure Student Reps can provide their feedback as best as possible,

## Encouraged students to reach out if experiencing issues with feedback.

## Manifesto: Making the ALS screening progress more accessible and affordable-

## Working in collaboration with the Additional Learning Support and a BU student on a campaign to raise awareness for dyslexia

## Manifesto: Introducing a safety pledge mandating staff to correctly acknowledge students preferred names and pronouns

## Safety pledge drafted in the new year

## The pledge will represent all students

## Manifesto: Redeveloping an Education Council to represent marginalised students-

## Working with the Associate Dean of Student Experience in HSS to ensure that students have a forum to have their voice heard.

## So far there has been one for student parents on Zoom and hopes to roll this out further soon

## Running a student forum for international students in Feb

## Manifesto: Working with BU to tackle seasonal depression-

## Working with Disabilities Officer and Wellbeing service

## Reoccurring talks with head of Wellbeing Service and Disabilities Campaign Officer about the possibility of collaborating on content for students, including a podcast episode on seasonal depression.

## This would be intended to be released in the new year.

## Policy: Eliminating printing costs

## In progress but deprioritised due to lower number of students on campus

## Policy: Time appropriate teaching days sessions-

## Refocused to look at screen fatigue, but still a priority

# Policy: Materials available in advance 48 hours in advance-

# In progress and continuing to lobby for this with relevant meetings.

# Policy: Priories action around UN sustainability goals

# Joint with all FTO’s

# SUBU has again achieved ‘excellent’ in the NUS’ Green Impact Award which is awarded based on an organisations ability to show their dedication to environmentally and socially conscious practices.

# Furthermore, SUBU are collaborating with BU to set up an effective action group that works with students to achieve this goal.

# Vice-President Student Opportunities Report

# UAE presented

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Implementing a hardship scheme to eliminate financial barriers to accessing clubs and societies

## Working with Student Opportunities department £1,500 has been secured from Santander for a hardship scheme

## Currently mapping how this will be distributed and further information to follow in the next term regarding access to this fund

## Manifesto: Providing a range of skills based volunteering opportunities to help students gain transferable skills

## New volunteering opportunities every week

## Sending out in emails to students who are registered

## Encouraged students to sign up

## Manifesto: Introduce wellbeing champions to clubs and societies

## Placed on hold due to COVID.

## Manifesto: Create an online space for students to access a monthly activities timetable

## Continued to create online events using the new SUBU ‘What’s On’ Calendar- now situated on the home page of the SUBU website so is more easily accessible for students to find out what they can get involved in

## Created a separate online community group for these events to be promoted to students especially over the Christmas period when we know that they will be experiencing increased loneliness if COVID prevents them from visiting family and friends.

## Manifesto: Providing support to international students to help support post-study employability

## Trying to provide more resources for students who are looking for jobs after studies

# Policy: Additional support for students in light of Brexit:

# Met with BU to discuss next steps and discussed BU reaching out to the Government who have confirmed that they will provide financial support for UK students in finding a placement after Brexit.

# Joined the NUS in lobbying Priti Patel asking for an extension to the settlement scheme

# An International student survey will support policy implementation and will work with the Student Voice and Policy team to launch this in January 2021.

# Assessing the scope for a Brexit support webpage on SUBU’s website

# Policy: Clubs and Societies Funding

# Actively using the new funding process and have had 2 of the new Awarding Committee Meetings to award funding and they have been successful.

# Students have a 7 day appeal window if they are unhappy with the outcome and all meeting minutes from these meetings are available on the SUBU website.

# Additional Work Areas:

# Refreshers next year more information to follow

# Anti-racism, delivering anti-racism training for staff

# Vice-President Welfare and Community Report

# TA presented

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Continuing and improving the period poverty campaign

## Planning and developing online campaigns, working with the Women’s and Trans and Non-Binary Officers.

## Partnered with ‘Hey Girls’ to provide sustainable products and working to deliver events and workshops around sustainable menstruation which are set to take place in term 2.

## Currently 56 members of the Facebook groups.

## Launched a survey in partnership with ‘Hey Girls’ to find out what students want to learn more about.

## Working with the SUBU commercial team to look at cost of items in the shop to ensure that the sustainable menstrual items are affordable for students.

## Manifesto: Reworking the Liberation Campaigns to make them more visible and effective-

## Collecting data for developing an Allyship Hub which will be published for 2021, including content developed by the Liberation Officers.

## Meeting every other week at Executive Committee meetings to discuss key events and issues facing their communities and looking to set up additional meetings.

## Working with relevant Officers to promote History Months including Black History Month which took place in October with 8 events, and Disability History Month which is ongoing. Disability History Month has included a movie screening and panel discussion.

## Developing the Liberation Campaigns, with each campaign working toward completing their Constitution which sets out their purpose and composition.

## Supporting Liberation Campaigns with delivering events over the break.

## Manifesto: Working with Reslife to tackle mental health crises within student accommodations-

## Working closely with ResLife to ensure that there is support for students who remain on campus over the Christmas break.

## Imagination in Isolation campaign which got students to promote the importance of checking in on your mates. This also included a competition with ResLife where students in halls created a window display.

## Manifesto: Working with VP Student Opportunities to provide more wellbeing support for clubs and societies-

## Working with the Vice-President Student Opportunities and the Student Opportunities Team to look at how this specific point can be developed over the next semester.

## Manifesto: To reimagine what welfare means for students-

## Continuing to work with Student Voice & Policy and Democracy & Campaigns teams to gather data on student opinions.

## Working closely with advice to find out what students are concerned about to ensure that this is kept at the front of our minds whenever we are delivering activities.

## Received feedback that consent was a growing issue for students welfare and have developed a policy proposal surrounding this.

## Developed a new Sex worker policy which was taken to the previous SUBU Summit. Now working on turning the policy into action.

## Manifesto: Creating a review platform where students can rate agents and landlords-

## Finalising contracts with the company to deliver this manifesto point which should be going live soon.

## Additional updates: working to deliver Sex Workers and FGM policies passed at the previous SUBU Summit

## The Chair invited the participants to speak further with the Full-Time Officer in different discussion groups.

# Student Ideas

# The Chair introduced the ideas up for discussion and invited the SUBU Summit participants to self-select discussion groups.

# The groups were invited to amend some, none or all of each proposal.

# The Chair advised participants they could swap discussion groups half-way through.

# In addition to the policy discussions there was also a Update and Feedback Discussion on ‘No-Detriment for 20.21’.

# Policy Discussions:

# Early Access to Reading Lists

# Support for Healthcare Students and Improving Course Cost Transparency

# Increased Wellbeing Support

# Create an Official SUBU Discord Hub

# Update and Feedback Discussion:

# No-Detriment 20.21

# Discussion Group Amendments:

## Create an official SUBU Discord HUB

# 2a. to include ‘– alternative solution -Teams’

# 3a. to include ‘ – The recognition of the union would allow this to happen. Currently students cannot search solely for Bournemouth University or SUBU’

# 3c. to create a new point ‘OR start from scratch and build the discord from the ground up with SUBU’

# 3f. to include ‘– Hard to publicise but also keep exclusive so server does not get overrun.’

# 3g. to include ‘– to ensure that spam is limited- You Can put limit on posts for example’

# 3h. to create a new point ‘SUBU can use the server to run their own events and discussions’

# 3i. to create a new point ‘Individual servers for smaller groups of people- eg per course’

# 3j. to create a new point ‘Set of rules issued by SUBU so students know the code of conduct on using the server and being respectful- these however may not fit with Discord’s community standards or for a club or society for example anyone can join the server for a particular course even if they aren’t on that course.’

# Increased wellbeing support

# 2c. to create a new point ‘To lobby for wellbeing information to be readily available for student from the beginning of their university journey.’

# 3b. to include ‘They would only be befrienders for other students, not for people outside of the university.’

# 3d. to create a new point ‘Have a specified staff member who would oversee the befriending process.’

# 3g. to include ‘For example volunteering with Dorset Mind or other external wellbeing organisations.’

# 3h. to create a new point ‘Lobby for a specific member of staff to reach out to Bournemouth University students about wellbeing topics’

# 3i. to create a new point ‘Supply wellbeing signposting as part of introductory lectures.’

# Early access to reading lists

# 2b. to include ‘and level 7.’

# 2d. to create a new point ‘To ensure that all students are aware of the reading lists being on the relevant reading list area of Brightspace’

# 2e. to create a new point ‘All students to have access to reading materials at application stage (with the understanding that they will not be fully specific as referenced in point c)’

# Support for Healthcare Students and Improving Course Cost Transparency

# 2e. to create a new point ‘For the University and NHS trust to split the cost to cover the life assurance for students if neither side will cover it in its entirety’

# Speeches and Vote:

# Early Access to Reading Lists

# Speech for: FL

# Students receive access earlier in the year to enable them to prepare

# Amended to include level 7’s

# Students to be made aware of reading lists available on Brightspace

# Slightly less details version also available on the BU website so students would be aware of the basic texts that they would be reading when coming to BU.

# Speech Against: None

# Call to vote

# For: 56

# Against: 0

# Abstain: 3

# **Passes**

## Support for Healthcare Students and Improving Course Cost Transparency

# Speech for: CB

# Lobby university for more transparency surrounding life assurance cost, specifically for PHD Midwifery course

# Grey area over what students are expected to pay for once they enroll

# Other Universities include life assurance within course costs

# Speech against: None

# Call to vote

# For: 58

# Against: 0

# Abstain: 2

# **Passes**

## Increased Wellbeing Support

# Speech for: TW

# Create befriending system, no expectation for students to provide frontline mental health support

# Increase sign posting, students do not know what services are available until it is critical

# For our students, by our students

# Specified staff member to provide support for befriends or step in where necessary

# Speech Against: None

# Call to vote

# For: 59

# Against: 1

# Abstain: 1

# **Passes**

# Create an Official SUBU Discord Hub

# Speech for: CK

# To create an informal digital version of the SUBU building

# Speech Against: WP

# Raised concerns surrounding manpower required to ensure the platform remains a safe space

# Call to Vote

# For: 26

# Against: 24

# Abstain: 12

# **Passes**

# Any Other Business:

# The Chair thanked everyone for attending and stated that the results of the vote would be emailed to all participants within the next 24 hours once all votes had been validated.

# The Chair reminded the participants that the next Meeting would be held on the 16th of February 6:00-8:30pm on Zoom.