**Minutes**

**30th March 2023**

**Zoom**

**Members**

Upwards of 100 members present, including:

Omuwa Ayomoto (OA) - SU President and Chair

Norah Deka (ND) – VP Education

Chike Dike (CD) - VP Welfare and Community

Fiifi Asafu-Adjaye (FAA) – VP Student Opportunities

Stephan Rodrigues (SR) – Student Rep

Esther Umeononigwe (EU) – Student Rep

Oluwatosin Olagbaju (OO) – Student Rep

O. Adenike Famodu-Titus (OAFT) – Student Rep

**In attendance**

Mata Durkin (Secretary/Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator)

Kayleigh Heckford (Democracy and Campaigns Manager)

Emma Davies (Student Opportunities Manager)

Kerry Dean (Head of Student Participation)

Sarah Corder (Student Voice and Insight 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: 114

# Reject: 1

# Abstain: 14

## **Minutes Approved**

# Trustee Board Update

# Presented by CD

# Key points noted:

# The Trustee Board has met once since last meeting in February. With a focus on finalising details from the year end finance audit. Indicated that priorities have been around the people plan, staff support and tracking the support provided to students.

# The board recently updated strategic vision and values with this being shown online via the SUBU website and the impact tracker will be periodically updated.

# 

# Full-Time Officer Reports

# President’s Report

# OA presented.

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Work with BU to improve the arrivals process for international students

## Second buddy scheme session launched on the 6th of February. Having developed 2 training sessions for all applicants.

## Had 103 new international students take part and 55 volunteers from different backgrounds and cultures.

## Scheme ran for four weeks under teams mentioned last summit and weekly feedback from has been created to identify ways to improve.

## Created international student working group to tackle international student issues and provide effective solutions.

* Manifesto: To continue to work with BU and Careers BU to increase the visibility on all employability opportunities for all students
  + Collaborated with Careers BU to provide Careers fair, with a record of 50 companies and saw a record of 2,075 students in attendance, showing BU interest in career futures.
* Manifesto: To focus on creating a cycle that involves guiding all students with an Alumni Future Series, that involves career development after graduation
  + Provision for a one-on-one career advice session for life to progressively guide your career path.

# Vice President Education Report

# ND presented.

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Boost an active community by tackling student loneliness, through the maintenance of the student buddy schemes

## Launched international buddy scheme with 2 trainings and 2 pairings happen so far and the most recent social happening on the 29th of March.

## Introducing new campaign to get students to talk to others about how they’re feeling.

## Recent student Rep trip to Durdle door for students to socialize and be in nature.

## Manifesto: Improve staff-student rapport, encourage students to feel open to communicate with staff and increase frequency of academic advisors’ meetings

## Communicating with learner analytic team to make message consistent to students that it isn’t a punishment but a way to track if they start to fall off.

## Manifesto: Ensuring education is accessible for all students

## Policy in place and in monitoring stage to ensure students are reaping the benefits.

## Manifesto: Work with the library to ensure all library books are available online and for students to be explicitly taught on how to write research papers and essays

## Conducting more video promotions for workshops that the library run and old books, available on library website.

# Vice-President Student Opportunities Report

# Due to absence from FAA

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Increase student satisfaction through clubs and societies

## Working on a celebration night for Clubs and society committee members.

## Manifesto: Supporting employability opportunities

## Worked with Careers BU event to present a career in support event in chapel gate with massive potential to repeat this in the future.

* + Hosted a student owned business section at this event for student owned business to present themselves to their fellow students.

## Manifesto: Creating an Injury Support Hub

* + Attends monthly meetings with SportBU to get updates on the progress of the injury hub. Meeting with key BU staff to obtain regular updates and monitor service.

## Manifesto: Giving more funding opportunities for sports for students

* + Worked with SportBU and Estates to establish free transport to Chapel Gate with around 900 students using this service. Looking to expand provision to run every day instead of just Wednesdays.

# Vice-President Welfare and Community Report

# CD presented.

# Key points noted:

## Manifesto: Work with BU Residential Services to effectively improve the students’ housing experience by making it more accessible

* + Had several conversations with BU to highlight necessary changes. Looking to follow up on this moving forward to remove challenges before next student intake.
  + Working with SU President on guarantor scheme, to support international students in finding accommodation.

## Manifesto: Further develop SUBU’s allyship program to represent more marginalized communities

## Working with Comms and our Liberation Officers to create video content to reintroduce students to the concept of being an ally.

## Manifesto: Work with BU to prioritize student safety on and off campus

* + Discussing with BU to create on campus security force and remove police presence on campus due to student concern. Happy to report training for staff is on its way, with these staff to start work officially in September.
  + Creating night safety flyers to promote student safety from SUBU perspective.

## Manifesto: Collaborate with BU wellbeing team to reintroduce students to wellbeing services that champion healthy menta health practices

## Working with BU to develop student wellness services, notably the ‘Retreat’. Looking to promote and encourage students to take part in this.

* + Looking to re-host survival skills session at Chapel gate.
* Manifesto: Introduce new International Students welfare programs to enable easy integration into the BU community
  + Working on International student information page to provide all necessary information.

## 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.

# Policy Discussions:

# SUBU to lobby BU to add university bus routes that cover travel to Talbot campus from more suburban locations.

# SUBU to lobby BU to increase the developments for sporting facilities at the university.

# SUBU to lobby BU for lecture and seminar resources to be made available 1 week in advance.

# Discussion Group Amendments:

## *SUBU to lobby BU to add university bus routes that cover travel to Talbot campus from more suburban locations.*

* Amended point 3 to Problem – ‘to and from campus from the aforementioned locations.’

# Added point 1 to Ideas for Solutions – ‘For BU to explore how many students live or are on placement in the suburban areas listed in the proposal’.

# *SUBU to lobby BU to increase the developments for sporting facilities at the university.*

# No amendments made.

## *5.5.3 SUBU to lobby BU for lecture and seminar resources to be made available 1 week in advance.*

# Added point 2 to Problem – ‘For some students – reasonable adjustments’.

# Speeches and Vote:

# SUBU to lobby BU to add university bus routes that cover travel to Talbot campus from more suburban locations.

# Speech for: CD

* Current issue stands that there are no Uni Busses from the listed locations to campus and vice versa resulting in students having to pay more and take many busses to attend lectures and seminars.
* Also a risk of lateness, as one late bus will impact all other transport.

# Speech Against: None

# Call to vote.

# For: 119

# Against: 5

# Abstain: 6

# **Passes**

# SUBU to lobby BU to increase the developments for sporting facilities at the university.

# Speech for: FAA

* Policy notes a lack of space for facilities and therefore less likely to be picked up by students without this support.
* Untapped potential for students to be successful sports people due to lack of facilities.
* Solutions recommended to improve current spaces and the range of sporting facilities.

# Speech against: None

* + 1. Call to vote.
* For: 89
* Against: 18
* Abstain: 22
  + 1. **Passes**
  1. SUBU to lobby BU for lecture and seminar resources to be made available 1 week in advance.
     1. Speech for: ND
* Problem is that resources are uploaded late 1 day before or even on the day, not allow students to properly review the work and resources before their seminar and resources.
* For some students having access to resources is critical due to learning requirements and additional needs.
  + 1. Speech against: None.
    2. Call to Vote:
* For: 109
* Against: 8
* Abstain: 12
  + 1. **Passes**

# Any Other Business:

# The Chair asked if there was any other business.

# SR noted the timings for classes are quite late for international students in different time zones, representing MSC Management and Human Resources. OA responded that they would raise these concerns with timetabling team.

# EU representing MSC Psychology looking to make an adjustment for one day free as they are in every date. OA also responded they make no promises but will help address this.

# OO representing Business Intelligence wanted to know how we can help address the effectiveness of lecturers. Expanding that not all lecturers account for background experience and lack of clear communication.

# OAFT noted they brought up OO’s point previously to ND and that they have also experience a lack of understanding and accommodation for their background

# The Chair thanked everyone for attending this meeting and stated that the results of the vote would be emailed to all participants within the next 48 hours once all votes had been validated.