**Christ Church Students’ Union**

**Union Council**

27th October 2014 at 11am in The Boardroom, St. George’s Centre, Canterbury

**Minutes**

1. Approval, (D) Discussion, (N) Note, (V) Verbal update, (P) Presentation

**Attendees:**

Darcy Anderson (DA) President

John Bambury (JFB) Council Chair

Daniel Braiser (DB) Fundraising Officer

Jack Brooks (JB) Environmental Officer

Hanna Coles (HC) President (Welfare and Education)

Bianca Coseru (BC) International Students’ Officer (EU)

Bronwen Edwards (BE) Disabled Students’ Officer

Kirsty Fallington (KF) Mature Students’ Officer

Shayne Halfpenny-ray (SH) Student Reps Officer

Lauren Hopkins (LH) Gender Equality Officer

John Jones (JJ) GMS Officer

Daisy King (DK) LGBT Officer

Whitney Ndubuisi (WN) BME Officer

Emma O’Dwyer (EO) Placement Students’ Officer (Health)

Conor O’Shea (CO) Postgraduate Students’ Officer

Joseph Rook (JR) LGBT Officer

Matt Wynn (MW) President (Sport)

**In attendance:**

Silvia Rasca (SR) Membership Services Manager

**Apologies of absence:**

Emily Bak Olesen (EBO) Student Trustee

Amy Clark (AC) Placement Students’ Officer (Education)

Sarah Dickinson (SD) Student Trustee

Sophie Dudley (SDu) President (Student Activities)

Amy Gibbons (AG) Women’s Officer

Mengyao Jiang (MJ) International Students’ Officer (Overseas)

**Absent with no apologies:**

Lauren Carty (LC) Broadstairs Officer

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| 1. **Apologies for absence**   Apologies were noted.   1. **Approval of speaking rights for those in attendance**   Union Council voted for SR to be allowed to speak in the meeting.   1. **Minutes from the last meeting**   There were none.   1. **Matters arising (not already covered in the agenda)**   There were none.   1. **Declarations of interest**   There were none noted.   1. **Sabbatical Officers report**   **President’s report**  DA talked about her recent activities, including:   * Chaired two master planning meetings setting the agenda for student accommodation and general development of the SU. * Wednesday an extra meeting regarding general direction of the university regarding the estate. * Done first set of appeals. * Along with Managing Director finished the operating plan and KPIs. * Attended University Board of Governors meeting; main priorities tackling assessment and feedback and organisation and management. * Community work with Canterbury college and Kent Union. * Value for money campaign; freedom of information denied regarding school expenditure as it’s held at higher level. Lobbying the University for the information in a different format.   **President (Sport)’s report**  MW talked about his recent activities including:   * Record sign-ups for membership of sport, over 1,100 sport members so far. * Good recruitment at Freshers’ Fayre. * Welcome events went successfully despite university not being too happy with them. * Kit Surridge management as it is proving difficult. * attended master planning regarding sporting provision. * Varsity will take place 28 February - 4 March . * Preparation for Movember for charity. * Sports fed dinner planning taking place 11 March at Margate winter gardens. * Secured sponsorship from ‘I love tour’ and Cardy’s. * Final whistle event every Wednesday night taking place. * Working with Elior regarding feedback for the Lounge to be student friendly. * Working on a new sport creation policy.   JB queried what measures are in place to combat lad culture on Wednesday nights. MW responded that teams who want to be part of the Lounge are rewarded for good behaviour however a difficult area to monitor. Members also sign up to the terms and conditions when purchasing membership. DA also suggested that Board of Trustees passed the zero tolerance policy to help with that matter.  LH asked why not introduce something about lad culture in the terms and conditions. LH will potentially look into that.  JB queried about the scrutiny panel idea.  **ACTION: It was agreed that reports of officers to be submitted in advance so they can be properly scrutinised.**  **President (Welfare and Education)’s report**  HC talked about her recent activities including:   * Written the zero tolerance policy in collaboration with the Managing Director and Elior staff which has been passed at Board of Trustees meeting. * Will write procedure as a flow chart of the policy. * Opened sexual health clinic and 4th week today; very popular. * Safety bus to be organised. * Blood drive to be organised. * Attended Homestamp board. * Mentioned housing as a priority campaign for the sabbatical team. * Planning the Wait campaign to not to get housing before Christmas. * Work on Accommodation Fayre may want to take over from the university. * Planning Green impact meeting.  1. **Motion regarding Private Housing**   JB proposed the motion and explained the rationale and the details. It was well received by DA who also noted that UKC don't want to be too aggressive in their approach. HC mentioned that Homestamp is recruiting students to do checks on properties and gave a brief description of Homestamp as an accreditation scheme and website; it was originally created by the city council and it’s a way for students see that the landlords are safe. They pay a fee to abide by Homestamp rules. JB queried regarding the repercussions of bad service. HC responded that it depends on what criteria they break. There was discussion about inviting only Homestamp landlords to Accommodation Fayre. JB questioned the power of the scheme. HC continued with discussion regarding potential idea of speed meeting at the Fayre. JB questioned how do we maintain our power. HC responded you can't because it's a voluntary scheme for landlords. SHR suggested making it exclusive through Homestamp and amending their criteria to be more inclusive and accessible. Landlords and agencies have a Iot of power already. JJ queried how many people get their house through the Fayre, HC to look into it. HC also mentioned current students are pressured by landlords to resign their contract. SH mentioned that Homestamp needs to be more advertised. JB mentioned that the current accommodation Fayre has not got enough power. He mentioned that potentially national organisations could help to put pressure on this. JR suggested that we are willing to name and shame so let's get the bal rolling. DB questioned whether the university supports this and the answer was yes, however they are not great at advertising other houses beyond their own.  **The motion was amended slightly and passed**.   1. **Motion regarding Gender Neutral Toilets**   JR introduced the motion and explained the rationale and the details. SHR questioned whether it would replace current toilets, whether it would introduce unisex or gender neutral separate toilets. JR was not too sure as it needs more research and also consider about feasibility. DB gave an example that in Washington there was one as well so looks feasible. DA made the differentiation between a campaign and lobbying. JJ mentioned that it should be not just on campus, but in the Students’ Union building as well. LH explained that there could be a compromise to be discussed. BE mentioned to consider the disabled students and their toilets as well. KF added considering the religion students and BC to consider international students. There was a wide discussion about what it actually means in practice.  **The motion was amended slightly and passed.**   1. **Timing of Union Council elections**   SR introduced the reason for considering timing of Union Council. The turnout for this set of elections was quite low. There was a discussion regarding when they were run at the same time as leadership elections which overloads some people. The point is not to confuse students. JJ suggested having them before leadership elections. EO mentioned a lot of students weren’t aware of the elections just gone. SH suggested we need to make students more aware of union council and proposed to increase the campaigning time as it will increase participation. DB mentioned marketing was better this year and expressed the benefits of having all elected in March as the officers could work together throughout the summer.  **ACTION: Council to think about the most appropriate time and bring it back to the next meeting.**   1. **Student Forum**   There was a discussion whether to have three separate forums or a big one. DA suggested that three separate ones didn't work so suggested one. DB expressed the need to make specific invitations to students reps, sports, societies, etc. JJ suggested having a month to promote it.  **ACTION: SR to set up doodle for UC to decide best timing and suitable location.**  **ACTION: Zero tolerance and alcohol policies to be shared with UC.**   1. **Any other business**   DB suggested organising a meeting of social secs of sports and socs. BW to organise.  **ACTION: BW to organise meeting of social secs.**  JJ mentioned 19 November 2014 NUS demonstration. There was a debate whether to support it.  **ACTION: A referendum on the NUS demonstration will take place.**   1. **Date of next meeting**   To be decided online.   1. **Union Council only time**   Meeting ended 1.20pm. | **ACTION LOG**  **LH**  **DA,SD,**  **MW,HC**  **ALL**  **SR**  **BW**  **SR** |