



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

16th November 2020
11am - 1pm

Chair: Yasmin Elsouda

Agenda

1. Addressing our environment and dynamics, and actioning a safe space
2. Establishing our priorities for the year
3. Officer Check In
4. By-election
5. Get Vocal 2.0
6. Disability History Month
7. Enough is Enough update
8. World Aids Day (1 December)
9. AOB

Apologies: Emma Thackwray

In attendance: Hasan Zakria, Sabrina Shah, Victor Max Smith, Lucia Pedroso, Sohane Yahya, Alex Allen, Yasmin Elsouda, Josh Mock, Heleena Pankhurst, Michael Shand, Felix Henson, Hisham Parchment, Katie Saunders, Lizzy Cox, Oscar Ward, Ella Spencer

1. Addressing our environment and dynamics, and actioning a safe space

Yasmin: Welcome! Hope you had a good Reading Week. Last week we had a really good week of Student Rep training, and we're hoping to get Exec and Student Reps more connected across this year.

We wanted to start this meeting by addressing the environment of these meetings. We've started the year online, which makes us more disconnected from each other, and we need to be honest with each other about how we're feeling as part of this team.

[This part of the meeting was off-record to encourage officers to speak openly]

2. Establishing our priorities for the year

Yasmin: What do we all see our priorities being for this year; 2 or 3.

Sohane: Liberation months to build networks. Can ask students and societies to join. Can create working groups.

Hasan: Historic issue of liberation officers not having a way to reach their cohort. We've created a widget on the SU website - similar to how you self-ID for elections. Students can self-ID with liberation groups which will add them to mailing lists which officers can then email.

Felix: [Societies involved in history months] We don't have a Disabled Students society - we need to set one up but it is a lot of work.

Lucia: Make the SU as financially stable as possible.

Hisham: Handbook on liberation months - calendar templates, budgets, contacts, etc.

3. Officer Check In

Skipped due to time limitations.

4. By-election

Sabrina: PGR Officer role is vacant following Autumn election. Environment Officer has stepped down. We are not constitutionally bound to hold a by-election to fill these positions but the representation is important. Would everyone be happy to hold a by-election to fill these roles?

All present officers voted Yes.

5. Get Vocal 2.0

Sabrina: We want to bring back Get Vocal online, on Zoom. An open forum for sabbs to tell the student body what they're up to, and give students the chance to just speak to sabbs. Informal space. Form of transparency and accountability. How do people feel about this?

Sohane, Roza, Ella, Oscar, Lizzy and Heleena volunteered to help work on this!

Sohane: This was born out of the fact there is low participation in democracy - UGMs rarely meet quora. They happened every 2 weeks as a way of gaining student participation.

Lucia: People feel more free to speak in these spaces than UGMs.

Lizzy: Since we're online we can take advantage of break out rooms - spread issues out into break out rooms. Could have certain officers in each week to discuss certain issues and people can choose which officer (break out room) they'd like to go to.

Sabrina: That sounds great and would encourage people interested in certain topics to get involved. Would allow Exec Officers to meet people and get manifesto work done.

6. Disability History Month

Felix: Got lots of events planned. Taking over the SU instagram on November 17th, DHM starts on November 18th. Trying to organise an online house party at the end of the month. Drag society are happy to get involved with performers. Next few days are panic designing, and then will try and make a handbook - would appreciate any help with this.

Ran through the events calendar.

Lucia and Heleena volunteered to help.

Lizzy: How would you do sensory break out rooms? Where will you be operating (e.g. Zoom)?

Felix: Mostly on Zoom - this is a good idea.

Hasan discussed the pros and cons of using BLE and Blackboard to host events.

7. Enough is Enough update

Roza: We had a meeting with the campaign and from this agreed to have another meeting to figure out how to go forward. We've reached out to the campaign and are waiting on a response to set up a meeting. I can't update much further than this as the decisions mostly lie with the campaign.

8. World Aids Day (1 December)

Josh: World Aids Day is December 1st and I think as an SU we need to do some events to mark this day. If anyone is interested in helping organise this please reach out. Thinking of doing an event with an external charity - busting misconceptions, how to go forward, etc.

Roza volunteered to help.

9. AOB

Heleena: The change in the mitigating circumstances policy has been difficult - there's the 10 day deadline and the NHS self certification which you can do twice in a year. It's more complicated to complete and the NHS form is difficult to find and not accessible. The previous policy seemed to work better.

Sabrina: Shall we set up a group chat / call to discuss a response to take to registry?

Lucia, Heleena and Felix volunteered to get involved.

Yasmin to create graphics for mitigating circumstances policy changes.