

UPSU - UNION COUNCIL
Thursday 19th April 2007
4.00pm
Function Room 2, The Student Centre

MINUTES

- 1. Apologies For Absence**
- 2. Minutes Of Previous Meeting**
- 3. Matters Arising And Action Points From Those Minutes**
- 4. UPEL Update**
- 5. Officers Reports**
- 6. Membership Issues**
- 7. Events coming up.**
- 8. Date And Time Of Next Meeting**

Present

Chris Yorke (President), Jodie Austin (Sports Officer), Mike Rayner (Ed & Rep Officer), Elle Gray (Student Support), Diana Langford (Student Activities and Development Officer), Adrian Fraguera (Media and Publications Officer), Rena Ellis (Chief Executive), Steve Baker (Membership Services Manager), Holly Eagan, Jade Brennan, Holly Ackerman, Sarah Carlite, Neil Guess, Simon Leach, Georgina Luther, Emma Fosh, Alex Harries, Marisa May, Anna Alexander, Adam White, Dan Tayler, Katherine King, Jo Bower (minutes)

1. Apologies For Absence

Apologies were received from Andy Machin.

2. Minutes Of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and it was agreed that they were an accurate reflection of matters discussed in the last meeting and were duly approved and signed off.

3. Matters Arising And Action Points From Those Minutes

- a) EG to contact NUSSL Ethical and Environmental Committee and invite them down to discuss Coca Cola with the students.**

EG stated that this meeting had been arranged for 26th April 2007.

- b) CY to arrange meeting with John Craven and students (small group) to discuss Special Branch poster.**

CY stated that this meeting is currently being set up and either he or Ben Norman would be able to report back about this at the next Union Council.

- c) CY to speak to John Craven about the motions.**

CY stated that he is meeting with John Craven next week.

4. Officer Reports

Presidents Report – CY submitted a two written reports, the first detailing the NUS Conference. CY noted that this typically bureaucratic however NUS are aware of the problems and are open to criticism. CY stated that he was very proud of the diversity of Portsmouth Students who attended the conference.

CY highlighted that his second report was regarding a proposal UPSU wished to put forward to the UoP regarding Lux. CY stated that feedback showed that students are unhappy with Lux as a venue. Whilst UPSU understand the need for Lux to be multipurpose they do have ideas about what can be done to improve the venue. AH agreed that changes should be made but that UPSU should closely liaise with UPEL's Ents Department regarding this. The comment was made that Lux looks like a school disco. The comment was made that it is difficult to differentiate between the different areas within Lux i.e. where the bar area ends and dance floor begins. SL stated that Lux is just a white shell and needs to be given character. The membership unanimously agreed that changes needed to be made to Lux.

Sports Report – JA submitted a written report, JA noted that the Sports Tour had run extremely well but there had been a couple of injuries. JA thanked all the staff that went on tour. JA noted that she is currently working on a UPSU Sports Strategy. JA stated that the AU Dinner would take place on the 5th May 2007. JA stated that the deadline to make final payments for tickets is Friday 20th April 2007. Any tickets which have not been paid in full with then be offered to those on the reserve list.

Student Support Officer Report – EG had submitted a written report, EG stated that the Amsterdam Hitch hike ran well with over 79 students taking part. EG stated that she hoped to raise between £4K and £7K for RAG with this event. EG thanked all UPSU staff who helped with this event. EG stated that she was currently working on RAG week which would commence on the 7th May 2007 and end with Societies Carnival. EG stated that the RAG Jail would be placed in the Student Centre again and she is looking to hold the largest game of twister at Societies Carnival.

Education and Representation Report – MR submitted a written report, MR noted that he is working closely with the UoP on the Inter-professional Learning Student Liaison Group. Mr highlighted that he has now been asked to be a member of UoP Working groups. MR noted that this is the first time a sabbatical office has been asked to sit on these groups and it is a reflection of whole well this years sabbatical team had done. MR stated that he was working on modernising the UoP Appeals, disciplinary and complaints process.

Media and Publication Report – AF submitted a written report, AF highlighted that he is currently working on the AU Dinner Video and the deadline for footage is Friday 20th April 2007. AF highlighted that the UPSU.net had been awarded best website at the AMSU Conference.

Student Activities & Development Officer – DL submitted a written report, DL noted that she would be taking a group of volunteers to Meadow House on Thursday 26th April 2007 and this would continue on a fortnightly basis. DL stated that she and her VIP team are currently working on a Pirates Theme Day which will take place on Saturday 28th April 2007. DI noted that the Societies

Ex are working hard on the Societies Carnival which will take place on the 11th May 2007.

5. UPEL Update

Dave Livingstone (Bars Manager) and Janet Hiller (Trading Operations Executive) attended the meeting to up the membership on some changes within UPEL.

Polycarbonate Trial

DL informed the membership that UPEL intend to trial the of rigid plastic pint and half pint glasses in the Waterhole starting next week. If the trial is successful UPEL may look to provide these in all bars in the future. The advantages of rigid plastic glasses are:

- The quality of drinking vessel and of the dispensed product will be greatly improved compared to plastic.
- The safety of our customers and staff will be increased as glasses would not be available as weapons and the instances of shards of broken glass or plastic causing injury in the premises or on the grassed area will be reduced.
- UPEL non recyclable waste will be greatly reduces as polycarbonate should last on average ten times longer than normal plastics they are far less likely to be discarded casually as happens with the current plastic glasses.
- Polycarbonate glasses raise the standard of our corporate and socially responsible licensing policies by removing threat to customers and staff and reducing the impact on the environment.
- The main disadvantage is cost. On average the polycarbonates cost twice as much as glass and approximately six times as much as reusable plastic.

DL asked the membership for any feedback. It was commented that it may not be as easy to play touch cup with these cups. It was asked if more Jugs would be available. DL stated that UPEL is aware how much the membership enjoy jugs and they are currently looking at providing more, however during the day time there may need to be some kind of deposit system for having them to ensure that they come back.

ID Checks

DL stated that many of the membership may have been ID checked at various bars over the last week. DL stated that there are several reasons for this.

Background:

Antisocial behaviour Act

- Increase the level of offence for all staff in the chain of events.
- Reduces the due diligence offence
- Puts the Unions' Licence and activity at risk

Government funding available to catch people out through underage test purchases.

Threats

- Student staff could be prosecuted and face fines of £1000 or more
- Obtaining conviction is easier under the new act
- Legal defence is diminished through due diligence reduction

What are we doing and why?

- Increasing ID checks to protect the license and the social scene of the Union
- Increasing auditable records to allow a common law defence of reasonable action, to help protect our staff.

Intended Results

- A safe union still able to trade, offer services and raise the profile of student issues.
- A union of student staff who are trained and looked after to ensure they don't face heavy penalties, fines or stressful burden during their time at University.

6. Membership Issues

No issues were raised for discussion.

7. Constitution Amendments

CY highlighted that some changes had been made to the UPSU Constitution. CY asked the membership to note Schedule 5 – Elections point 15.1. NUS Conference Elections. CY stated that the wording had been changed to reflect that NUS Conference Elections are held in exactly the same way as the Sabbatical Elections.

CY asked the membership to note Schedule 8. CY stated that this section had been tidied up to fall into line with Union Council processes. CY asked the membership to look through these schedules and come back with any feedback by Monday 23rd April 2007.

8. Events Coming Up

20th April 2007 – Final Day for AU Dinner Payments

24th May 2007 - Boxing Event

26th April 2007 – Meadow House Volunteering Event

28th April 2007 – Pirates Day

5th May 2007 - AU Dinner (Deposit accepted at the Cash Office).

8th May to 11th May 2007 – RAG Week

11th May 2007 – Societies Carnival

16th May 2007 – Royal Navy V UoP Varsity

7th June 2007 - VIP awards dinner (Deposit accepted at the Cash Office).

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Union Council will take place on 3rd May 2007 at 4pm in Function Suite 2.

ACTION POINTS

- d) EG to contact NUSSE Ethical and Environmental Committee and invite them down to discuss Coca Cola with the students.
- e) CY to arrange meeting with John Craven and students (small group) to discuss Special Branch poster.