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**Union Council**

**22/10/20**

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| **Present, Apologies and Quoracy** | |
| Chair of UC,  no voting rights | Robert Nutkins |
| Part-time Officers, full voting rights | Academic Officer – Katherine Collins  Environment & Sustainability Officer – Neve Peat  International Students Officer - Gem Evelyn  Students with Disabilities Officer - Will Robinson  Transgender and Non-Binary Officer – Jonah Zalick  Welfare Officer – Owain Gullam  Women’s Officer – Jessica Andrews Smith  **Vacant Roles**  Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Officer  Faith & Belief Officer  Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender + (LGBT+) Officer  Mature Students Officer  Partner Institutions Officer  Postgraduate Officer |
| School Reps, full voting rights | Peninsula Medical School – Emily Schenk  School of Biological & Marine Sciences – Georgia Small  School of Engineering, Computing, & Mathematics – Vivian Hocking  School of Geography, Earth & Environmental Sciences – Izzy Haines  School of Health Professions – Simrandeep Kaur  School of Psychology – Tafadzwa Nyambuya  School of Law, Criminology & Government Representative – India Ellis  School of Nursing and Midwifery – Maeve Hoey  School of  Art, Design & Architecture – Cat Dodd  **Vacant Roles**  Institute of Education  Peninsula Dental School  School of Humanities & Performing Arts  School of Biomedical Sciences |
| Sabbatical Officers, full voting rights | UPSU President – Chukwudi Ezenyi (KC)  VP Wellbeing and Diversity – Fawziyyah Ahmed  VP Activities – Verity Lemm |
| Other attendees, without voting rights | Chair of Accountability Board - Alex Jobling  UPSU Interim Chief Executive – Antony Blackshaw  Representation and Democracy Manager – Tracy Priestman (Minute Taker)  Representation and Democracy Co-ordinator – Steph Martin  Representation and Democracy Co-ordinator – Emma Quinn  **Vacant Roles**  Accountability Board Members |
| Apologies | VP Education - Emi Dowse  Plymouth Business School – Perran Johnson |
| Not present at the meeting and did not send apologies | N/A |
| Quoracy | In order for a motion to be passed 75% of the elected voting members need to be present, quoracy was 16 and was reached |

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| **Minutes** | |
| Welcome | The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance. |
| Matters from the Last meeting | There were no matters arising from the previous minutes |
| Notice of Any Other Business | Vivian Hocking – School of Engineering, Computing, & Mathematics Rep gave notice of two items |
| Matters to Discuss | Introduction of Interim CEO |
| Antony Blackshaw – Interim CEO gave a short introduction and explained that he had been appointed by the UPSU Board of Trustees for a nine month period. Having been a Sabbatical Officer and CEO of three Students’ Unions, he subsequently established a consultancy and has provided interim CEO services at several other SU’s.  There were no questions for Antony. |
| Election of Deputy Chair |
| The Chair explained that the role was to step in for the Chair should they be unable to attend or in the case of a conflict of interest.  Tafadzwa Nyambuya - School of Psychology Rep expressed an interest and gave a brief speech outlining why they thought they would be suitable for the role.  Union Council members voted  For: 16  Against: 0  Abstention: 1  **Passed – Tafadzwa Nyambuya was co-opted as Deputy Chair of Union Council** |
| Ratification of Board of Trustees members |
| Chukwudi Ezenyi - President gave an overview of what the Board of Trustees do and how Student Trustees are appointed  Charles Gage  For: 15  Against: 0  Abstentions: 4  Bradley Fuller  For: 12  Against: 0  Abstentions: 7  **Both Charles Gage and Bradley Fuller were ratified as new members of the UPSU Trustee Board** |
| Reports | Part-time Officers and School Rep Updates |
| Part-time Officers and School Reps gave an overview of their key priorities,  manifestos can be found at <https://www.upsu.com/studentvoice/representatives/> |
| Sabbatical Officers Update |
| Chukwudi Ezenyi (KC) – President   * Looking at getting more student representation on University meetings and involved in feedback and decision making processes. * Working with the University to develop a new student led initiative on sustainability whereby students and student groups can host or attend workshops. * Attended the University Board of Governors and raised the issue of student loneliness and isolation which is a priority to address. To combat this Emi Dowse – VP Education and Fawziyyah Ahmed -VP Wellbeing and Diversity are working with UPSU staff members to develop a Buddy Scheme which will link first year students to those in higher stages for peer support. * Currently querying what plans the University have to support students over the Christmas break, including the end of term and return in January.   Verity Lemm -VP Activities   * Lobbying the University regarding space that was used by student groups and was cut as a result of changing timetables due to COVID. Eight clubs that used Main Hall or Pitts Hall in the evening lost out due to earlier closing time and seven societies lost space in RLB. Clubs have had their time reinstated and societies now have access to Rolle Marquee. * VL reported that she is a student Chair of British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) and has been voicing the concerns of Plymouth students at BUCS meetings. * To help address the loneliness issue VL has been extending the Team Plymouth presence on social media to include other student groups and representatives as a way to explain what support is offer and what opportunities students can participate in. * VL is Faculty of Health Representative and has been meeting with the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning regarding changes to exam provision. * Focusing on mental health and wellbeing support for student groups with the introduction and expansion of the wellbeing advocate roles   Fawziyyah Ahmed – VP Wellbeing and Diversity   * Meeting with Res Life about what support they are offering for students self isolating in halls and how the University plan to tackle loneliness and isolation. The university have set up a webpage and sent the links to students about what support they can access when isolating. * Hosted the first Wellbeing Forum to discuss all issues regarding mental health and wellbeing and will make this a regular thing * October is Black History Month and FA worked with several societies to put on activities and events. * Discussing with the University about how to improve Careers support for International students. * Looking at digital campaigns for Movember, International Men’s Day and Disability History Month. |
| Board of Trustees Update |
| Chukwudi Ezenyi (KC) – President, reported that the Board appointed Antony Blackshaw as Interim CEO for nine months after Sarah Gibson resigned. |
| AOB | Vivian Hocking - School of Engineering, Computing, & Mathematics Rep had two items to discuss;   * Facebook profiles of ex officers still seem to be active with students tagging them in recent posts. * Feedback from students that staff are not adhering to COVID safety protocols and are exceeding room capacity and are not enforcing rules. VH suggested a report tool could be implemented and noted that the Sabbatical Officers have raised this at Teaching and Learning Quality Committee.   The Student Voice Team reminded members that all School Reps and Part-time Officers should elect a deputy from the student body. Typically, School Reps would open the opportunity to interested Course Reps and Part-time officers would invite those interested from relevant student groups and attending Forums to stand.  There are a number of roles still open for co-option, please do encourage students to get in touch with the Student Voice Team about these. Interested students will be asked to provide a manifesto which Union Council members will vote on. |
| Dates for the Diary | 30th October – manifesto deadline for co-option |
| Next Meeting | 26th November 2020 |

## Actions from this meeting

No actions