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**Union Council**

**27/10/22**

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| **Present, Apologies and Quoracy** | |
| Chair of UC,  no voting rights | Will Jones |
| Part-time Officers, full voting rights | **Present at this meeting**  Part-time Sports Officer – AL Joseph  Part-time Students with Disabilities Officer – Olly Moody  Part-time BAME Officer – Tafadzwa Nyambuya  Part-time Faith and Belief Officer - Beverly Yeboah  Part-time International Students Officer – Esther Obayomi  Part-time Postgrad Taught Officer – Olayinka Kareem  **Co-opted at this meeting**  Part-time Women’s Officer – Apolline Tran  Part-time LGBT+ Officer – Robert Nutkins |
| School Reps, full voting rights | School of Biomedical Sciences Rep – Cheryl Addo-Quarshie  School of Society and Culture – Louis Wilson  School of Art, Design and Architecture – Rob Dyson  Dental School Rep – Maryam Al-Dubooni  **Co-opted at this meeting**  School of Computing Engineering and Maths – Mya Symister |
| Sabbatical Officers, full voting rights | VP Wellbeing and Diversity – Josh Borokinni  VP Education – Tonari Arikekpar  UPSU President – Daniella Marley |
| Other attendees, without voting rights | Representation and Democracy Manager – Tracy Priestman (Minute Taker)  Representation and Democracy Co-ordinator – Stephanie Martin  Representation and Democracy Co-ordinator – Emma Quinn  **For Co-option**  James Mitrussis  **Vacant Roles**  Accountability Board Members |
| Apologies | VP Activities – Mitch Laughton  School of Nursing and Midwifery - Amy Bishop  Part-time Environment and Sustainability Officer – William Kerry  Chair of Accountability Board – Ramin Zaynali |
| Not present at the meeting and did not send apologies |  |
| Quoracy | In order for a motion to be passed 75% of the elected voting members need to be present, quoracy was 18. |

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| **Minutes** | |
| Welcome | The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance  This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the SU Safe Space Policy, the M&A’s, Bye-laws and policies of the Union. |
| Matters from the Last meeting  Accuracy of minutes | There were no matters arsing  The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting |
| Notice of Any Other Business | None given |
| Matters To Discuss | Co-option of Vacant Roles - See appendix 1 |
| James Mitrussis and Mya Symister both gave a speech in support of their candidacy for the School of Engineering, Computing and Maths Rep role  The candidates left the room whilst the vote was counted  **For James: 4**  **For Mya: 7**  **Abstentions: 7**  **Mya Symister was elected**  Apolline Tran gave a short speech for the role of Part-time Women’ s Officer then left the room whilst the vote was counted  **For: Unanimous**  **Apolline Tran was elected**  Robert Nutkins gave a speech in relation to being co-opted to the role of LGBT+ Officer  **For: Unanimous**  **Rob Nutkins was elected to the role of Part-time LGBT+ Officer**  The Chair, Will Jones, read a statement from Ramin Zaynali who was seeking to be co-opted as Deputy Chair.  **For: Unanimous**  **Ramin Zaynali was co-opted as Deputy Chair of Union Council** |
| Student Trustee Ratification - see appendix 2 |
| All Student Trustees were ratified |
| Reports | Updates from attendees |
| As it was the first meeting and several people have only just been elected, there were no reports submitted.  **Rob Dyson – School of Art, Design and Architecture**   * Gave talks to Course Reps and in induction week * Liaising with estates about changing some of the toilets in RLB to gender neutral facilities. * Planning an event for under-represented groups   **Taffy Nyambuya - Part-time BAME Officer**   * Working with student groups and met with VP Wellbeing and Diversity   **Josh Borokinni -VP Wellbeing and Diversity**  Gave update covering:   * [Black History Month](https://www.upsu.com/representation/bhm/) * Continuing accommodation issues for international students - a paper has been sent to the Vice Chancellor and senior university team   **Tonari Arikekpar - VP Education**   * Working with student voice to ensure that course reps are trained * Liaising with uni regarding international student meet up * Woking with staff and students to expand the postgrad community * Hosted a drop-in session with the Deputy Vice-chancellor, Student Experience   **Daniella Marley – President**   * Collaborating with Arts University Plymouth and Marjon and met with Plymouth City Council regarding student safety * Encouraging voter registration * Hygiene products for students in need are now available in the Hive * Nominated for Westcountry Women award   **Sabb Team**   * Training for student governor and NUS Leadership * Talk about Sex Week - 6th Feb * Green Week – w/c 25th March * Progressing community larder * Graduations/freshers |
| AOB |  |
| None |
| Dates for the Diary |  |
| None |
| Next Meeting | Wednesday 14th December |

**Appendix 1 – Co-option Manifestos**

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**Co-option statements October 2022**

**School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics**

**James Mitrussis**

Hi all, I’m James and I am a 2nd year Mathematics with Theoretical Physics student. I am running for the school rep position for Engineering, Computing and Mathematics as I believe that I am a good candidate for it, with relevant experience in communication among both peers and the public. Evidence for this can be found in the work I have done with the university so far such as:

1. Adopter and chairman of the soon to be reformed Maths Society
2. Subject Specific Student ambassador for the Mathematical Sciences which included various open-days and workshop assistant roles for GCSE and A-Level students.

If I were to be elected to this position my main priority would be aiming to increase inter-subject and inter-cohort social cohesion within the school through various methods such as:

1. Aiming to establish multi-disciplined lectures on subjects of interest i.e., easy to understand computer science lectures on a non-course subject for all within the school.
2. Opening ‘taster’ sessions within the S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) societies so students can get a feel of different subjects at a university level while meeting new people.
3. Creating a modernised, random pen-pal system within the school to encourage students to come out of their shell and talk to someone in a similar field in the university.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto. I hope some of the ideas above resonated with you and you will consider voting for me for the school representative roll. If you have any questions, thoughts or comments feel free to email me at: [james.mitrussis@students.plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:james.mitrussis@students.plymouth.ac.uk)

**School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics**

**Mya Symister**

Hi! My name is Mya Symister, and I am running for the position of School Representative for the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics (SECaM). I am a first-year Mechanical Engineering student from the twin islands of Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean.

If given the opportunity, I will execute my role as school rep with a proactive approach and an amicable and highly professional attitude. I am reliable, punctual, detail-oriented and efficient. These qualities were instrumental during my leadership positions as service club secretary, teacher and personal tutor in the past year.

Within this role, I aim to empower students with:

* Personal, academic and career development: I get it, filtering through your inbox can be time-consuming. By organising a central social media account for SECaM, students can easily access opportunities from the university and its affiliates, such as drop-ins, seminars, and workshops. Maximising these connections enables the diffusion of ideas, skills and broader perspectives between students and industry.
* Building community: Peer learning is invaluable for networking, ranting and developing ideas. Encouraging collaboration through study groups, socials and societies outside the classroom can help SECaM feel like home. We realise an incredible amount of success by sharing and working together.
* Diversity and inclusion: As an international student at a multicultural university, I deeply resonate with the importance of inclusivity for all students. That includes other underrepresented groups in our cohort, such as mature and neurodiverse students. I strive to partner with groups such as our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion committee. Our differences can contribute to an engaging and colourful learning experience for everyone.

Ultimately, the hallmark of a successful tenure would be the empowerment of students across the cohort. I look forward to working with students and staff to achieve results that shape our university experience in a meaningful way.

**Part-time Women’s Officer**

**Ahn Tran (Apolline)**

My name is Apolline, I’m a stage 2 chemistry student. I come from Vietnam, a country where gender inequality is an issue. I’m applying to be the part-time women’s officer because I would like to give support to women and also contribute to the UPSU representative system. Coming from a different country, I understand the value and meaning of support and help. I believe that ‘’small actions can lead to a big difference”. Therefore, I would like to join the Representative team to create a positive difference in our community.

**My top priorities are:**

* Organizing social events or holding drop-in sections, having conversations, and listening to people's concerns and worries.
* Representing people and presenting student feedback at the relevant meetings for discussion of ideas and solutions with other Course and School Reps.
* Contributing ideas and spreading the message to Plymouth women that

‘WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU. This can be done via email, social media, or posters across the campus.

**Previous experience**

Course Reps:

The role improved my ability to work in a team efficiently with other Course Reps and attend regular meetings. I also listened to people's concerns and raised them at the Chemistry faculty meetings. This role gave me several valuable skills such as Confidence, Communication, and Organisation.

Secretary of SVP society:

I was responsible for taking minutes during the committee meetings. I also have experience in organizing fundraising activities for charity. We raised over £300 in a day by selling bubble tea.

Thank you for reading my manifesto and feel free to get in contact with me for discussion or to ask any questions.

**Part-time LGBT+ Officer**

**Robert Nutkins**

I’m Rob, now studying Law having completed my Environmental Management and Sustainability masters.

While signing up for societies this year, I realised that my choices are very support based (Feminist, LGBT+, Trans and Non-Binary). Having realised I am transgender and having explored that more outwardly in the past 18 months, I find myself in need of that support network.

I noticed that while the societies menu is quite richly populated with LGBT+ groups, both explicit and implicit, the SU itself is lacking or at least is behind on LGBT+ advocacy.

41% of LGBT+ people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months and 16% LGB people, (who aren’t trans) have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their sexual orientation in the same period.

Plymouth is a proud LGBT+ city, with the first openly gay MP, Luke Pollard, representing the constituency in which the university resides, and the city has dedicated two days of the year for LGBT+ recognition.

I would like to see these days celebrated at our SU. I would like to see the SU take a stance against the rise in hate crime and make some effort towards reducing homophobic and transphobic views that eventually perpetuate into crime.

This is not just a question of being seen to be inclusive, this is a question of wellbeing, safety, and unfortunately in some cases, life. Having accepted that I will likely be the subject of transphobic or homophobic abuse every time I go out wearing makeup, including within the SU itself, this is a particularly important issue for me. As a starting point, I've initiated a dialogue with Mitch about inclusivity within UPSU. Wearing makeup and choosing an outfit should not be a question of safety.

**Appendix 2 - Student Trustee Information**

**Ratification of New Student Trustees**

The Governance and Appointments Committee have appointed the following Student Trustees to the Board of Trustees. These appointments are subject to ratification by Student Council.

**Harry Simpson** to be appointed as a Student Trustee for an initial period of 1 year with the option to extend to 2 years as outlined in the Articles of Association.

**Statement from Harry:** “Currently in my 4th year with PUPSMD, I've grown rather fond of what Plymouth and the southwest have to offer. I’ve been involved with the Rowing and Sailing clubs, play hockey, love a good surf, and try climb when I can. Jam House and Friday nights in the SU are also favourites of mine. I’ve recently started learning the piano (with limited success).

I can relate with much of our student population; my first year was interrupted with COVID, the subsequent year spent almost all online and then a placement year followed outside of Plymouth. I have gained a good understanding of our wide student demographics and the various values essential to student life. I look forward to bringing my knowledge and broad experience to benefit the education and quality of life of our students.”

**Kolawole Ogunsakin** to be appointed as a Student Trustee to 15 January 2023.

**Statement from Kolawole:** “My name is Kolawole Ogunsakin, I am studying MSc. Business and Management in the business school. I am in the January 2022 set, which means I will come to the end of the program by January 2023. I am from Nigeria, before coming here for this program I was working with a local bank as a regional business development manager, back home. I am hoping that the short time I will be spending on the board will be impactful both for the SU and myself.”

**Zachary Patel** to be appointed as a Student Trustee from 16 January 2023 for an initial period of 1 year with the option to extend to 2 years as outlined in the Articles of Association.

**Statement from Zachary:** “I am currently in my third year at The University of Plymouth studying medicine. The prospect of becoming a student trustee excites me, as I have a unique lens as a student being both biracial and part of the LGBTQ community, and I can represent these groups in the Union Council. Last year, I ran the Medical Society and attended many SU events such as the Summer Ball and SU Saturdays, I have thoroughly enjoyed my engagement with the SU so far and cannot wait to aid it on its journey to provide support for the students at The University of Plymouth.”