



## MICHAELMAS TERM GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011

### PRESENT:

George Gardiner	LUSU President
Olly Trumble	VP Events and Democracy
Alex Carlin	VP Academic Affairs
Matt Saint	VP Equality, Welfare & Diversity
Matt Power	VP Media and Communications
Marc Handley	VP Activities

### APOLOGIES:

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### STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

A.Morley	Student staff minute taker
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#### 1. QUORACY – Not met

#### 2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR – Not needed

#### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Not relevant as not quorate.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING – None

#### 5. FULL TIME OFFICER REPORTS

##### a. LUSU President [Including Financial Update]

Financial Update- Up to the 31<sup>st</sup> October, income from Purplecards has increased. For expenditure, there are fewer salaries.

Operating costs due to training.

LUSU Involve - Fine.

LUSU Living - operates as a subsidiary- LUSU Housing Ltd. and are finding more bed spaces.

Marketing – Bad debt from Toast and Elements.

Retail – Fine.

Sugarhouse – Their income makes up 15% of the budget which is pumped back into LUSU as a whole. The target is 100000 visitors, after term 1, 50% of this has been achieved.

For the Lancaster-Liverpool Collaboration LUSU is ensuring their involvement in the discussions. The University will be releasing two papers describing the form that the collaboration will take and the advantages to Lancaster University that this collaboration would bring.

Accommodation – There were approximately 150 students who had no

accommodation as the amount of incoming students has increased. There will be less accommodation for second and third years. LUSU will write a formal letter to the University as the ambitions of student numbers are not sustainable.

The University should act on a demand/supply issue.

LUSU Space – This is now at capacity, the University are expected to invest in space for the Student Union. The University is to invest in the SU.

Postgraduate taught fees – not increased, Lancaster hasn't made a decision. Action will be taken if increased fees become 9K. The new VC begins his office in January.

Access agreement – justify £9k. Discussions ongoing to ensure good value for money.

Business Process Review – felt that it had been communicated poorly.

Engagement meetings between students officers and students.

Strategy for next term. Beneficial to courses.

##### b. Vice President, Events and Democracy

Sports – PG Action Plan – to make the services more accessible, extended voting to 4 days, this had increased by 150%. The overseas voting increased.

More robust financial process – guiding funds. Sponsorship with external businesses to include common rooms and sport.

More reasonable bar prices.

PPL music licensing – proposal to increase fees by 2000%, the Lancaster students not in agreement and the local MP had been made aware.

Sugarhouse fine. Christmas market successful incorporating community engagement and international inclusion.

Live music reported that negotiating was a slow process. Feedback given on General Meeting. A proposal was put forward that no purplecard would be needed to join societies due to fee rise. Also discussed purplecard requirements for students here for one year.

##### c. Vice President, Media and Communications

Reported about the India visit. Visit days covered by Twitter and 'Love Lancaster' campaign. Branding product board 2014: everyone will know LUSU. The iPocket App now out, website regenerated and the college JCR website now up to spec.

Media: 350 students signed up for Joint Media Day, increase from last year. Successful events include Freshers Fair. Bailrigg Freshers Fair. Visit Day. LA1 TV having new content i.e. Sugar TV.

Student Media Research on going to ask 500 students about Media of tomorrow. Last year the four of the Student Media team successfully had items published in the local press. Continue this year with 'Get your

name in Print'. The JCR now have a media website. Introduced in house College printing via the Information Desk.

Scan re-designed with more emphasis on the digital version. This had greatly reduced the number of returned paper copies. 3000 access to the digital version in 2 days.

The 'Make it in the Media' day is planned and will coincide with 'Get your Name in Print'. LU Cinema working alongside Roses, Bailrigg FM and LA1 TV.

**d. Vice President, Equality, Welfare & Diversity**

The restructure has been finalised with 3 full time advisors, case work has doubled.

LUSU Living with NUS had 1,000 responses in 4 days.

There have been accommodation issues. A successful welcome event for over 200 off campus students in Fresher's along with the Easy Tiger campaign. Positive feedback received. NUS are asking SU ombudsmen for feedback. Other campaigns include Movember,, Challenging Perceptions, and Mental Health.

LUSU Education and Support are working with Involve for language exchange opportunities. Currently Chairing the PG Involvement group.

There will be a review of Equal Opportunities next term. Working to improve Freshers Reps., working groups with International Students.

**e. Vice President, Academic**

There had been problems with the email change over but issues now resolved. The student portal, LUVLE is now outdated and due to be decommissioned in the summer. Prototypes running on Moodle. A portal to see email, timetables, gradebook is in development. In the LSS results, 88% of 3<sup>rd</sup> year students satisfied, which is above UK average. Lancaster Teaching Awards nominations are now open. Assessment feedback is ongoing. University Challenge Team appointed. The Student Charter will be revisited as not approved by the University.

**f. Vice President, Activities**

A new staff structure within the area. Ongoing work for space; more flat floor space. No centre space available for societies, possible within LICA. Allocated £10k funding. 15 new groups. Justify increase in funding with Sports. Teething issues with new Sports Centre.

Roses being organised for 4/5/6<sup>th</sup> May.

NUS findings will be returned in January and will be in Publication section of webpage.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No further business, meeting closed.