



**LUSU Council**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 December 2011

**PRESENT:**

Rachel Harvey	Bailrigg FM Station Manager
Matthew Power	LUSU VP Media and Communication
George Gardiner	LUSU President
Oliver Susoy	Bowland Vice President
Laura Dean	Fylde Female EWD
Sarah Strachan	Fumess Vice President
Sam Norman	Environment Officer/Fumess Equal Opportunities
Rob Dickinson	Fumess President/CCO Societies Officer
Carrie Skinner	Nightline Service Director
Sam Crompton	Pendle President
Ros Ballinger	LGBTQ CCO
Olly Trumble	LUSU VP Events and Democracy
Richard Clark	Pendle Vice-President
Sarah Taylor	PGSA President
Stephen Smith	Fylde President
Will McDonagh	LA1TV Station Controller
Jack Taylor	LUSU Sports Officer Elect
Dennis Esch	Fylde VP Welfare/CCO International Students' Officer
Alexander Carlin	LUSU VP Academic
Jess Newton	Lonsdale Vice President
Rachel Essex	Lonsdale President
Grace Fitzpatrick	Equality Campaigns CCO
Tia Halliday	Liberation Campaigns Officer Elect
Anastasia Rattigan	Bowland President
Jemma Gaskell	County President /LUSU Council Officer (Chair)
Marc Handley	LUSU VP Activities
Matt Saint	LUSU VP EWD
Michael Cole	Fylde VP Social and Events

**APOLOGIES:**

Catherine Alexander	Liberation Campaigns Officer
Jonathan Hayton	Science & Technology Officer
Jasmine Blake more	Cartmel JCR President
Danny McGuire	Cartmel JCR Vice-President & Welfare Campaigns CCO
Joel Pullan	Management School Faculty Officer
James Beedie	Arts & Social Sciences Faculty Officer
Matt Walker	Social & Events Group Chair
Jess French	Communications CCO
Emily Jayne Nicholls	Media CCO
Emmy McIntyre	EWD Council Officer

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Helen Cose	Student Staff Minute Taker
Peter Elliott	LUSU CEO

**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – PASSED**

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**3. PRESENTATION: BARS UPDATE AND QUESTION AND ANSWERS**

The Fumess Vice President was elected as Deputy Chair for the meeting.

Jo Hardman, LUSU's Business Development Manager, gave an update on how the LUSU bar bid is progressing. There were several main points:

Vision – improving the student experience in the college bars and using the available space in a more efficient way. There also needs to be an improvement in turnover and profitability.

Colleges – The needs of staff and students need to be met, as well as changes to the bar system in relation to the increase of international students attending Lancaster in the future.

Community – There should be multi-usage of spaces for other groups, and the individual needs of a college should be taken into account.

Responsibility – LUSU will have a responsibility to those using the bars and also the responsibility of providing licensed trade alcohol.

Marketing – It is important to consider the factors of price, promotion, service and the available products.

Opportunities – Student employment will be highly important, both behind bars and also to be involved in entertainment, marketing and management.

Entertainment – There should be an expansion of the entertainment programme on campus led by students.

Food – There should be integrated food offers and a partnership with Facilities to provide this.

Impact – There needs to be an improvement on the current situation.

The International Officer/Fylde VP Welfare asked what the scope will be for JCRs to still make decisions about the use of bars.

The response was that the needs of individual colleges will be taken as the main consideration, but there may still need to be adjustments from a business perspective, for example if several colleges wanted to hold a similar event close together. Organised events will take the size and facilities of a space into account. There will be a negotiation between all interested parties.

The Pendle Vice-President asked what the timescale for the bar takeover would be. Jo informed the Council that nothing will be happening this academic year – currently, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 is likely to be the earliest that the takeover will begin.

The Sports Executive Officer Elect asked if clubs and societies will be encouraged to use the bars. Jo replied that clubs and societies will also count as interested parties, and that

their using the bars should be encouraged. The trade from these groups should ideally be kept on campus, and with the amount of time before anything concrete takes place there will be time to work in this issue.

The Lonsdale Vice President asked whether once issues had been dealt with and there was a more concrete plan the takeover would be brought to a vote.

It will be brought to LUSU Council and will also go to Trustee Board.

Jo told Council that it is important for students to be on board with the idea of LUSU taking on the bars otherwise the whole thing will fail. As well as Council the student body as a whole needs to be supportive of the idea. Currently, there are no viable alternatives to LUSU taking over the campus bars if they are to be safe and all continue as they are.

The Fylde President asked what the stance on pricing will be.

Current pricing is probably higher than ideal, but the idea is to bring prices down through promotions, particularly those for specific events such as Election Results Night or for JCR events.

Each month there will be a review to consider which features are a success and to discuss any changes that need to be made.

The Chair thanked Jo for his presentation.

#### **4. OFFICERS' INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS**

LUSU President – LUSU will be lobbying the University to provide lower fees for Postgraduate education in order to improve accessibility. Universities are currently making decisions over postgraduate fees and Lancaster will likely make their final decision in January 2012.

The Lancaster-Liverpool collaboration committee are meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the structure of the collaboration and advantages to Lancaster University.

The Office of the Independent Adjudicator is running a consultation through the NUS which will give Universities and Student Unions the opportunity to feedback on complaints and issues.

The Council agreed that week 6 of the Lent Term is fine for RAG Week.

The LUSU President sat on the University Tuition Fees Group to discuss Widening Participation.

VP Equality Welfare Diversity – Sat on the Postgraduate Working Group, looking into the support of postgraduate students.

The recent Access All Areas campaign was a success and there was a good level of interest from students.

The VP EWD has finished his sessions for Winter Officer Conference and is now creating the resources for these sessions.

A Working Group for Freshers Reps will be created and students will be picked from college JCRs to sit on it.

Environment Officer – There have been three successful meetings for of the Environment Committee this term. There was a forum held which was successful, and the first newsletter was published. The Officer thanked colleges for sending representatives to meetings. The LUSU President thanked Sam for his efforts in this position.

LBTQ Officer – As submitted. World AIDS Day vigil was a success.

Nightline Service Director – As submitted. Recently attended a training conference to improve the level of training provided.

Faculty of Social Sciences Officer – As submitted.

Liberation Campaigns Officer – As submitted.

Cartmel – As submitted.

Lonsdale – As submitted.

VP Events and Democracy – Turnout for voting has increased in some colleges and reduced in others. Postgraduate voting has increased by 150%. There is still more work to do done, particularly in the area of International Student involvement. Voting trends seem to have mirrored those of the shorter voting period, with a higher level of participation at the beginning and end of the voting period. Constructive feedback has been received – Ollly asked for any further feedback to be directed to him. He is meeting with MiVoice to discuss changes to the system. Ollly thanked the Elections Officer and Adam Bardsley for their efforts in the elections. The four day voting period allowed time to solve issues that otherwise would have caused serious issues to the election and may have required it to rerun.

The Christmas Market is taking place this week, and next week the LUSU General Meeting will take place next Thursday. All Officers were encouraged to attend. Cross Campus Officer results are now online.

The LUSU President thanked the VP Events and Democracy for his efforts during the election. The Pendle President also thanked him on behalf of the candidates in the elections for his help with all their queries. Cross Campus Officer results are now online.

Elections Officer – As submitted.

Bailrigg FM – As submitted.

VP Media and Communications – Get Your Name In Print has 60 people taking part. There is currently a Student Media Questionnaire currently being completed to research students' engagement with Student Media. Currently Roses coverage is being discussed with York and the Student Media groups. College magazines can now be printed in-house at LUSU at a smaller cost. There have been talks with the University and now there is an increased SCAN presence on the University website.

International Students' Officer – In Appendix to Minutes

PGSA President asked for Colleges to be well informed about the Working Groups. The VP EWD asked for further information about the World Congress. The International Students' Officer informed the Council that there is a consultation going into an International Student Association.

LA1TV – Membership has improved and there are several new programmes in production. Viewing figures have increased. Discussions about Roses coverage are taking place. The LUSU President and VP Activities congratulated LA1TV on their work.

Equality Campaigns Officer – Running a Christmas Homeless Action Campaign. An Officer in each college will be responsible for promoting the campaign.

Bowland – Information and Questions were distributed in the meeting.

County – Information and Questions were distributed in the meeting.

Fylde – Intro Week publicity via Twitter worked well, Fylde are doing well in the Carter Shield, International Freshers' Reps were introduced this year for the first time, there have been several successful campaigns recently and there have been two successful off-campus socials. The Fylde President gave his thanks to his JCR.

Grizedale – Not present.

Pendle – Information and Questions were distributed on the meeting. Elections went well, and the college Christmas Ball was a massive success. The President thanked his JCR.

Graduate – There were 20 nominations this year for positions which is a vast improvement. Promotion of the elections was a major focus this year. There has been some discussion of restructuring the PGSA and rebuilding of areas of Graduate College. Holiday events have been organised. The PGSA President offered her thanks, and the Chair thanked the PGSA President for her work.

5. **MINUTES OF UNION EXECUTIVE to be approved.** Passed
6. **MINUTES OF EWD COUNCIL to be approved.** Passed
7. **MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL to be approved.** Passed
8. **MINUTES OF ELECTIONS SUB COMMITTEE to be approved** Passed
9. **MINUTES OF SOCIAL AND EVENTS GROUP to be approved** Passed
10. **MINUTES OF STUDENT MEDIA BOARD to be approved** Passed
11. **MINUTES OF CROSS CAMPUS OFFICER COMMITTEE to be approved** Passed

## 12. **CONSTITUTIONAL BUSINESS**

Green Committee – The committee will be changed to the Environment and Ethics Committee. Changes are in the Agenda. The changes were passed unanimously.

LGBTQ - Changes are as written the Agenda. There was a query about the inclusion of being nominated by another person. The VP EWD responded that some people may not be confident to nominate themselves and can therefore be nominated by someone else. The changes were passed unanimously.

Nightline – The changes were as read in the agenda. These were passed unanimously.

Bailrigg – The changes were as read in the agenda. These were passed unanimously. With a forementioned changes, this constitution passed unanimously.

The VP Events and Democracy asked for all byelaw changes to be sent to him.

## 13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Full Time Officers will be giving out mince pies and talking to students during the Christmas Market tomorrow. Council were invited to attend.

The LUSU President asked for views on accommodation guarantees and availability for next year. There will be talks with the University over their recruitment policy and accommodation availability. Things such as the International Study Group must be considered as some are under 18, and also International Students sometimes have difficulty finding off campus accommodation. LUSU plan to write a letter expressing concern and asking for a response. First years are considered to be a priority group.

The International Students' Officer offered the opinion that first year students should definitely have a guarantee of on-campus accommodation, and that International Students should have a full three-year guarantee. The University has a duty of care to the students from the International Study Group, but as it is a for-profit organisation safe, local accommodation should be provided by the ISG.

The LUSU President informed Council that there will be a significant reduction in accommodation for second and third year students, and the refurbishment of Bowland's Ash House will result in a further loss of beds.

The Fylde President also agreed that a first year guarantee should be of paramount importance but that International Students should not have guaranteed on-campus accommodation for the duration of their studies, as the expected increase in International student uptake would mean a significant drop in available on-campus accommodation for home students. The possibility of building more accommodation on campus should be considered.

The PGSA President enquired whether Postgraduate students would also be affected by this. She added that Masters students in their first year at Lancaster University should also be considered 'first years' overall and therefore should be included in the first year accommodation guarantee. There should be no situations where there are first years forced off campus while there are continuers in on campus accommodation.

The Fumess President added that he feels it is important that final years get the

opportunity to live on campus due to a higher level of work. He also said that a three year guarantee for International Students should not limit places for final year students.

The Bailrigg FM Station Manager felt that it is important for second and third year students to live off-campus, as it is part of life experience. First years should therefore be the absolute priority for accommodation.

The Sports Exec Officer Elect said that all students first arriving at Lancaster should be given priority accommodation, regardless of their academic year. Therefore, those who transfer from other Universities should also have the first year guarantee.

The Council Chair agreed that living on-campus is not essential for second years but that third years should be guaranteed. The LUSU President replied that there is no real capacity for third years to have a guarantee.

The Pendle Vice-President said that after several cases in his college of first-years having to live with only Part II students, there should be more effort given to putting first years all together. The VP EWD responded that this is rare and usually only happens if a room becomes available for some reason.

The VP Events and Democracy pointed out that it is unusual for a campus university to provide so much accommodation for second and third years, so it would be worth looking into other institutions who have had similar issues and have had to reduce the quota of Part II students on their campus. He also said that there needed to be some parity in what LUSU could provide when it comes to representing students in off campus accommodation, such as if a letting company went bust or other issues affecting the students.

The LA1TV station controller thought that the idea of living in town should be pushed more, so that Part II students do not just see it as only an option when their on-campus application fails. If all second year students move off together then there will be more of a community in town.

Several members of Council offered the opinion that living away from campus promoted work and quieter living space, and that not living near first years could be conducive to work.

The Bowland President questioned the suggestion of postponing the refurbishment of Ash House, as housing issues may not be resolved for several years and the building needs refurbishment.

The LUSU President responded that the University will need to be clear on future recruitment figures before any decisions can be made in this area. He then asked for a final decision from Council on whether they agreed with sending a letter to the University and to ask them to be clear on recruitment figures. This decision was passed unanimously.

The LUSU President thanked all Officers for their efforts over the term.

#### **Appendix:**

International Campaigns Officer's Information and Questions:

#### **Freshers Week:**

training of all international freshers reps

Master of Ceremonies at the International Students' Welcome (05/10/2011)

delivered students' union session (together with Matt Saint) at the International Students' Orientation (06/10/2011), as well as another session on the life of an international student at Lancaster University

#### **Term time:**

represented international students on

-LUSU Council

-EWD Council

-Academic Council

-LUSU Executive

-Learning Technology Advisory Group

attended NUS International Students' Officer training in Birmingham (13/10/2011)

met with international and cultural society presidents

presented at workshop on internationalisation with university management and staff

about the areas in which Lancaster University needs to improve

#### **Projects:**

*Overseas tuition fees motion to LUSU Council* (completed):

passed at LUSU Council on 11/11/2011)

*International Students' Association* (ongoing):

working group will be set up at the beginning of lent term to work out a constitution to

be passed at LUSU Council; project to be completed by the end of summer term

*Overseas campus representation* (ongoing):

currently part of a working group that will work out suggestions for future

representation structures; chair of NUS working group

*Collaboration with international and cultural societies* (ongoing)

*World Congress* (ongoing)

**8 December 2011**