

Assembly minutes – Thursday 7 December 2017

Matt Gibson welcomed everybody to the meeting and announced the apologies that had been pre-submitted.

Minutes

Approved.

Election of a Vice-Chair

Antonia Barber spoke in favour of her candidacy for Vice Chair of Assembly. There were no questions.

Votes for - 26

Votes against - 0

Antonia Barber was elected.

Annual policy review

Esther Green spoke regarding the lapsing policy and the recommendations that Governance and Grants Committee had recommended.

Alex Hampton asked whether the exam feedback motion would require all exams to receive feedback. Esther Green stated that this was simply voting to renew or refer policies to the appropriate officer or committee.

Votes for - 26

Votes against - 1

Abstentions – 0

The recommendations of Governance and Grants committee were approved.

Updates on Officers work

President

Megan Croll updated on her work.

Q. James Creer asked about a tool for becoming an independent charity, James asked whether this was something students asked for. Megan said that it had been discussed by JCR Pres Comm for the last few years.

Q. Darcy Van Eerten asked about how Megan was taking the RippedOff campaign when SFAAG had not paid attention to it. Megan said she would carry on mobilising the campaign and sharing the postcards online before delivering them to key decision makers.

Q. James Creer asked why the SU was organising against SFAAG when it was generally supportive of students last year. Megan explained that year that the fee setting had been moved to UEC last year which will not happen again so it was important that SFAAG remain supportive.

Opportunities Officer

Charlie Walker updated on his work.

There were no questions.

Welfare and Liberation Officer

Rosa reported on her work.

Q. Darcy Van Eerten said that there had been a concern in her college about the rationale for creating a Women's Association. Rosa explained that it was not about numbers and it was about women having less power in society and within the university.

Q. David Evans asked for more clarification of why the university had initially said no to a rent guarantor scheme. Rosa stated they had vaguely said legal issues but other universities had them so was not concerned about this.

Questions to Officers

Q. Clara Gallay asked for SFAAG update, Megan Croll said that nothing was related to accommodation fees but bench fees were discussed.

Q. George Walker asked whether the Union had a stance for the reported *Palatinate* reports regarding University staffing restructure. Megan explained that there was no official stance but they understand that voluntary severance is happening again and want to ensure that it is not detrimental to the student experience. They have also noticed that university morale is low.

Q. George Stanbury asked whether there is a plan to document the wording of RippedOff postcards. Megan said yes.

Q. James Creer asked for a justification about why accommodation fees have risen but they also are cutting staff roles. Megan said that the University needs a renovation because of years of neglect but it too much is happening too quickly.

Grant Ratification

Esther Green reported on what Governance and Grants Committee had allocated to student groups. Assembly was asked to vote on whether to ratify the decision.

Q. Ed Nathan why some societies appear to have been given more money than it appeared. Esther explained that it was that their application was unclear and that was what they had requested.

Q. Thomas Henderson asked the disparity of why some were awarded full, partial or nothing. Esther explained it was based on the quality of application.

Votes for – 25

Votes against – 0

Abstentions = 1

Motion: Free and Accessible Menstruation

Matthew Gibson explained that a friendly amendment had been submitted. Rosa explained that in Assembly resolves 3, it mandates SU staff which cannot happen so it should be modified to say 'relevant SU officers.

The proposer of the motion explained that the research that the FREEdAM campaign had undertaken.

No member spoke against the motion.

The proposer waved a summation speech.

Votes for – 27

Votes against – 0

Abstentions – 0

Ratification of a Trans Association

Luke Armitage proposed the ratification of Trans Association.

A member asked whether LGBT+ Association would continue to have the T in the acronym. Luke said it would.

Thomas Henderson asked whether it could get constitutionally problematic if a student chooses to be on the exec of both. Luke said they did not envision this to be an issue.

No member spoke against the motion.

Matthew Gibson explained that Assembly were not ratifying the constitution and the campaigns plan, merely just the creation of the Association.

Votes for – 27

Votes against – 0

Abstentions - 0

Matthew Gibson adjourned the meeting.