**Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday 30th May

**Location: Zoom**

**Members**

Alex Caton-Bradley (Chair/SciTech Officer) [ACB]

Chike Dike (SU President) [CD]

Norah Valerie Deka (VP Education) [NVD]

Holly Tyack (VP Student Opportunities) [HT]

Fatima Farha (VP Welfare & Community) [FF]

& 34 other attendees

**In attendance**

Zach Braid (Secretary/Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator) [ZB]

Kayleigh Heckford (Democracy and Campaigns Manager) [KH]

Kerry Dean (Head of Student Participation) [KD]

Tammy Bowie (Student Opportunities Manager) [TB]

Jane de Vekey (Head of Student Voice & Policy) [JdV]

Mira Koseva (Director of Strategy & Development) [MK]

Adam Stokes (Campus Activities and Projects Lead) [AS] **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

# Welcome and Introduction

# The Chair welcomed everyone and outlined housekeeping information on Summit, the agenda, safe space policy, meeting etiquette, democratic procedures, procedural motions, voting, reports, student ideas and group discussions.

## Minutes of Previous SUBU Summit

## The Chair invited members to read over the minutes which had previously been circulated online and a vote was taken.

# Approve: 54

# Reject: 1

# Abstain: 22

## ***Minutes Approved***

# Trustee Board Update

# Presented by CD

# Key points noted:

# Since the last update, the Trustee Board has met once. Their meeting focused on financial information around the most recent audit. Various decisions linked to Trustee recruitment for both student and external roles were made alongside updates on SUBU’s new strategy, the FTO election and the CEO Recruitment. A paper was also brought and approved on an amendment to the byelaws linked to the Summit Chair Role.

# Full-Time Officer Reports

# **President’s Report**

# CD presented.

# Key points noted:

# Currently working with the university on the development and execution of a university wide cost of living campaign as well as working on more part-time jobs fairs to increase the visibility of these to students due to an increased demand as a result of a greater financial burden being placed on students due to the cost of living crisis. This comes from work he and VP Student Opportunities did recently on placements and part-time work which was presented to the universities’ senior leadership team.

# Noted that they have completed their manifesto point surrounding working with the dorset police department

# Regarding their manifesto point regarding working with international students, they have worked hard this year to support international students throughout the year with the implementation of schemes such as the international buddy scheme which has been hugely successful

# CD noted that regarding many of their specific policy actions, most of this has been completed or brough to a satisfactory point to be passed over to the incoming FTO team in July.

# **Vice President Education Report**

# NVD presented.

# Key points noted:

# They continue to work on making learning accessible to all students are in constant conversation with the PVC of Student Experience and enhancing students education. They are currently focused on making this a priority for the incoming Vice Chancellor to ensure that students educational needs are continuously met and remain accessible to all students.

# NVD has worked on supporting marginalised student groups, and recently went to an event called Taluwa which was focused on promoting community, education and sustainability within marginalized student groups. They attended this event with some key student leaders allowing for them to be part of this progress and translate the ideas and lessons learnt to their communities.

# Explored supporting students with managing workloads and stress for academic success by delivering a mini dissertation de-stress event in coordination with the library which focused on giving students a 5-10 minute slot to seek additional support for their dissertation. They noted that this was well received by the students who attended based on the gathered feedback,

# NVD noted that on their policy actions they have little update to give on many of the points as they have either been previously completed and reported on or are a period of standstill that will need further exploration in the next academic year.

# **Vice-President Student Opportunities Report**

# HT presented

# Key points noted:

# HT noted that their first manifesto point was regarding providing more mirrored spaces for clubs and societies which has been completed and these are now housed in the student hall which can bee easily booked out via the room booking form. Additionally they have also completed their manifesto point on sourcing affordable coach and mini busses for clubs and societies by working with a site called Platy which acts as a brokerage site so clubs and societies can note what service they need and companies can bid for the job, ensuring that most clubs and societies get at least a 30% discount on standard fares.

# Focusing on their manifesto point on making more social sports clubs, they have been working with SportsBU on this and whilst SportsBU do provide weekly social classes with their campus sport they are open to conversations on developing more clubs, but this will require student feedback to outline the demand for such.

# Additionally, has worked more on their Lansdowne manifesto point, with a focus of making the campus feel more social by adding more events and social spaces. There is now more seating at the campus following a large seating review, and the SUBU room was launched earlier in the year which is a step in the right direction of making the area more socially accessible. The next steps for this include working with students to identify further needs and wants for the space.

# They have completed a lot of work on their placement support manifesto point, working on lobbying BU to recognize that students require more support and want more high-quality placement opportunities relevant to their course. They have now received a commitment from the Pro Vice Chancellor to work on recommendations from their placement report, specifically on more industry connections. These are also being folded into the employability strategy for the 2025/26 BU Access and Participation Plan which is a huge success.

# HT noted that regarding their policies, the majority of these have been completed and are in a position of monitoring for any further developments or opportunities to do further work.

# **Vice-President Welfare and Community Report**

# FF presented

# Key points noted:

# FF noted their first manifesto point focused on prioritising university housing services by advocating for more affordable and accessible options for all students. They are currently working with Unipol to set up a rate your landlord charity and is working with the university to meet the funding demand on this project.

# They have completed work on increasing student retention and then explored their work on SUBU’s allyship hub where they note that there is still progress to be made on this with all staff training looking to take place over summer as well as having conversations with the university on including a definition for Islamophobia in their EDI policy which they have now agreed to.

# Work has been completed on streamlining student feedback channels to enable efficiency, there is no further update on this as it has been completed by the University. There is now an online page where students can file their complaint and its streamlined and efficient to use for both academic and non-academic complaints.

## The Chair invited the participants to speak further with the Full-Time Officer in different discussion groups.

# Lapsing Policies Review

# **SUBU should support the NUS’s New Vision for Education Campaign, including supporting the NUS Student Strike.**

# CD noted the executive committee recommendation was to lapse the policy and called for a vote.

# Retain: 16

# Lapse: 48

# Abstain: 9

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **SUBU to lobby BU and Beryl Bikes to provide a Student Discount.**

# CD note the executive committee recommendation was to lapse the policy and called for a vote.

# Retain: 30

# Lapse: 40

# Abstain: 3

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **Implementing a buddy system for incoming international students.**

# CD noted the executive committee recommendation is to lapse the policy and called for a vote.

# Retain: 17

# Lapse: 53

# Abstain: 5

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **Environmenstrual Policy**

# CD noted the executive committee recommendation is to lapse the policy and called for a vote.

# Retain: 17

# Lapse: 53

# Abstain: 5

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **Rename the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Plus officer and group and the Trans and Non-Binary Officer and Group to be more inclusive.**

# CD noted the executive committee recommendation is to lapse the policy and called for a vote.

# Retain: 10

# Lapse: 57

# Abstain: 9

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **SUBU should encourage more non-alcoholic socials.**

# CD noted the executive committee recommendation is to lapse and called for a vote.

# Retain: 19

# Lapse: 53

# Abstain: 5

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **BU should allow students to retake Semester 1 exams during Spring Break.**

# CD noted the executive committee recommendation is to lapse and called for a vote.

# Retain: 25

# Lapse: 43

# Abstain: 6

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **The University and Union should stop banking/associating with Barclays.**

# CD noted the executive committee recommendation is to retain and called for a vote.

# Retain: 61

# Lapse: 9

# Abstain: 7

# **Policy Retained**

# **The Allyship Policy**

# CD noted the executive committee recommendation is to retain and called for a vote.

# Retain: 66

# Lapse: 2

# Abstain: 8

# **Policy Retained**

# Student Ideas

# The Chair introduced the ideas up for discussion and invited the SUBU Summit participants to self-select discussion groups.

# The groups were invited to amend some, none, or all of each proposal.

# The Chair advised participants they could swap discussion groups half-way through.

# Policy Discussions:

# SUBU to lobby BU to allow bursaries to be awarded to students repeating a year.

# SUBU to lobby BU to improve the Lansdowne Student Experience.

# Discussion Group Amendments:

# SUBU to lobby BU to allow bursaries to be awarded to students repeating a year.

# *Amended point 4 in Problem to include – ‘For students who have….does not seem equitable’*

# *Amended point 2 in Ideas for solution to include – ‘SUBU to propose to BU…by exceptional circumstances’.*

# SUBU to lobby BU to improve the Lansdowne Student Experience

# *Amended point 1 in Ideas for solutions to include – ‘and diversity of food … religious dietary requirements.*

# *Added point 4 in ideas for solutions – ‘SUBU to improve the marketing…SUBU events on Lansdowne’*

# Speeches and Vote:

# SUBU to lobby BU to allow bursaries to be awarded to students repeating a year.

# Speech For: NVD

# NVD noted that this policy presents the current issue as the fact that students who have to repeat a year are not granted any bursaries, even if they have previously received this. This presents an issue for students who may be clearly dependent on receiving the bursary and the fact they are having to repeat a year of study likely has no impact on their financial stability or circumstances and by removing the bursary from them will likely impede their success even further.

# Presents a solution as lobbying BU to review their bursary terms and conditions regarding students accessibility to the bursary when repeating a year whilst also considering the wider financial impacts repeating a year can have on a student and use this consideration to better support students where applicable.

# Speech Against: None

# Call to vote:

# For: 61

# Against: 6

# Abstain: 5

# **Passes**

* 1. SUBU to lobby BU to improve the Lansdowne Student Experience.

# Speech For: HT

# Noted that the current issue present is that the student experience for students on the Lansdowne campus is significantly less than on Talbot Campus. This is due to a variety of factors from BU’s perception of Lansdowne to the use of space and facilities on offer across this campus.

# This policy would focus on adjusting the view of the Lansdowne campus and increasing the food provisions as well as exploring the marketing and use of SUBU spaces across this campus.

# Speech Against: None

# Call to vote:

# For: 67

# Against: 1

# Abstain: 5

# **Passes**

# Any Other Business:

# The Chair asked if there was any other business.

# There was no other business to discuss.

# The Chair thanked everyone for attending this meeting and stated that the results of the vote would be emailed to all participants within the next 48 hours once all votes had been validated.