**Minutes of Union Council meeting held on 28.01.2016**

Present: Siyoung Kim - Chair (SK), Matthew Tredget (MT), Joe Saxon (JS)

Apologies: Amal Osman

Exec in attendance: Issy Cooke (IC), Umar Chaudhery (UC), Yusuf Ahmad (YA), Marlis Kornrumpf (MK), Clémence Rouaux (CR), Lucie Repova (LR).

In Attendance: Craig Stewart (CS), Laura Dickens (Clerk)

1. Introduction

The Union Council Chair (SK) welcomed Union Councillors to their first meeting, and outlined the role of Union Council to scrutinise the work of the Students’ Union Executive and to approve policy proposed by the Executive.

1. Officers’ Reports
   1. VP Education: The VP Education gave a verbal report on his activities. He covered the rebrand of the Student Voice Awards to Learning Enhancement Awards and encouraged nominations to be submitted; elections promotions; increasing support for Programme Reps and meeting Quality Officers in each School; support for Postgrads and the new PG Forum. MT asked about when lecture capture would be implemented. UC reported that it is University policy that it is advised for lecturers to use, and advised for those teaching classes of 60+ students. UC wants students to put pressure on lecturers to use it. UC has leaflets as a guide to lecture capture that are being distributed around the University. He reported that the University are investing in Lecture Capture.
   2. President: The President gave a verbal report on her activities. She covered the new Union website; additional funding received over summer; feeding into the University’s Strategic Plan; the Redbrick research project looking at Segmentation and understanding City Students, which will feed into the Strategic Plan; the SU’s reband; money from Santander for new radio equipment; additional prayer room space; a new multi-faith space in Tait Level 1 and working with the University on spaces in Tail Level 1; bidding to get someone to compile the SU’s history; relaunching City Communities Committee with the University; Keep Calm and Study On and working with YA and UC to help create more academic societies and new societies. Union Council asked about the increased direction for students to be able to submit policy – IC responded that website has better information, she has looked at communications and transparency. She also talked about the Democracy Review taking place this year and how there is an independent audit of the SU taking place to ensure governance structures are working properly. MT asked when the recommendations would be implemented, and IC answered that it would be post-elections and work with the strategic plan.

C. VP Activities and Development: The VP Activities and Development took questions on his written report. MT asked about extending the hours of CityBar. YA explained that the SU is working on building a relationship with the Council on CityBar. So far the SU is given 10 late licenses for the bar. YA explained that 20 noise complaints had been received about the bar, hence restrictions and that licenses begin at the start of the calendar year and finish at the end thus the SU had 5 to use this year. YA noted that at a recent Residents’ Forum there were not many complaints and wants to work on keeping it that way. MT asked about ticketed events. YA said that currently do not do ticketed events, bar a couple per term, e.g. RAG Week. He stated that events be kept free for now, but can look into ticketed events if needed. YA said that more advertising and information on events should be done and that would take a few more years to gradually build up. MT asked about food being served in the bar after 7pm. YA stated that Sodexo had stopped as they weren’t received many orders past 7.30pm. YA said that they may consider changing this for Wednesdays, and that he was having meetings with Sophie from Sodexo.

1. School of Arts and Social Sciences School Representative Officer: The SASS SRO addressed questions on her report. JS asked about reps being invited to a second discussion on lecture capture away from the recent Student Experience Committee. MK reported that at the SEC, there was a request for a separate discussion as the topic was quite big and the discussion was to continue.
2. Cass Business School SRO: The CASS Business School SRO updated that CASS had approved a budget for Undergraduate Business Cards pending suppliers.
3. City Law School SRO: No report received.
4. School of Health Science SRO: No questions from Union Council on the written report.
5. International Officer: No report received.
6. Black Minority and Ethnic Students’ Officer: No report received.
7. LGBT Students’ Officer: No report received.
8. Womens’ Officer: No report received.
9. Disabled Students’ Officer: No questions from Union Council on the written report.
10. Environment & Ethics Officer: No questions from Union Council on the written report.
11. Policy Proposal:
    1. Anonymous Marking Policy: The Chair reminded Union Council that one of its main roles aside from scrutiny of the Executive, is to pass policy proposed by the Executive. IC proposed a policy to get Anonymous Marking across the board, where possible. IC explained that the system is currently an ‘opt-in’ system. She explained that it would be a positive move for students; help remove unconscious bias; that there was no reason for a name on coursework and that the University were broadly supportive.

JS asked about modules in Journalism, where some are written and some parts video. IC responded that the written part of the assignment would be anonymous and said it would be anonymous where possible.

Union Council unanimously passed the Anonymous Marking Policy proposed by the Executive, which now becomes the policy of the Students’ Union.

1. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Thursday 24th March, 6pm in AG.04.