**AGM 24/05/2016**

1. **OPENING REMARKS FROM UNION CHAIR**

Chair welcomes all to last meeting. No apologies. Agenda posted online.

Communications and Statements:

JK Kilker- Equalities Council tomorrow first of year, electing reps for equalities committee for next year.

Young Kuk Noh- Takeover of Radio 1 #yesallwomen, publicising to all societies and sports, check it out!

Brianna Middleton McPherson- After equalities council, week is after is part of reformed council structure, questions about NUS direct towards Richard Brook.

**Tom Flynn- Union Accounts:** Show members where money has gone, major restructure, new strategic plan and constitution, financial ending from 31st July 2015- inconvenience. AGM will now be earlier in the year. Requirement in legislation to present finances of SU (where money has gone). Education Act: Tory passed in 1994, way union runs. Charities Act: Requirement, SU is charity, unincorporated- trustees are the organization. Charities Commission Website shows SU’s finances. Auditing- check finances are well spent and financial health, offers advice to improve, Trustees then form narrative of what was done. Trustee statement will change next year, written in line with new strategic plan, all can view what has been said and then what has been done. Voluntary Income: Block grant from university. Charitable Activities, Bars Cafes and Events. Total Income value (all information can be found in relevant documents). 2.7million this year of income, increased by about one hundred thousand (block grant increased, societies and sports increased revenue). Larger surplus than expected due to fixed assets- tangible, last year surplus of seventy thousand pounds. Net current assets- cash and stock- free reserves, important for trading services in which sales can fluctuate, reserves also used to purchase. Auditors have said it is a true representation in accounts, confirmed no money stolen or misspent, also provided feedback to improve. Tom Flynn out.

**SAB Updates: Brianna MM:** All updates online and on SU website. Last AGM ☹ Manifesto: SU open 12 hours a day serving food and room booking (success), bigger budget for RAG, more rooms, new staff member for media (Jon May), change membership paying, and societies membership, excited to handover to Pippa, thank you for a wonderful five years.

**Jack Kilker (JK):** Welfare Committee- they are fantastic. Nap room- sadly not successful, new way of welfare campaigns, tried out a lot of things, training committees, consent workshops, liberation committees, internships, set up career start scheme and handed over to permanent staff, 10 students in to get work experience all gained a references, STI testing for local community, more HIV testing (once a month), community work.

**Alex Reilly:** Last AGM too ☹ New identity for sport on campus- BEARS- NOT A BURDEN I PROMISE- national focus in higher education sports at BUCS, no other institution for joint between university and union for sport, bears day has grown as all sports has bears- every day is bear day-, 100 sports teams engaging with hashtag throughout the whole week, sports as inclusive and accessible as possible, shout out to JK, Molly and Laura for their help with LGBT, Disabled students were involved, This Girl Can, Brianna and Alex on tour, Night at Dojo, colours ball.

**Nayab Cheema:** Page on SU website on course reps, sadly incorrect data from departments, getting more ownership over it. Ask SABs anything- bright ideas platform, up voting and down voting then to GM and Council (on SU website), SU clears are more clearly signposted for bring the hype, lean on me- support for campaigns (also bright ideas platform)- sets priority campaign, more gluten free and vegan options on campus, water fountains on campus, these cards are loyal- trading services to look up college card and SU system. Cater for study space, worked with JK and library to open up more spaces such as the main hall (union open to 10pm), liberating the curriculum, college agreed to put diversity as priority, student more directly involved in what they study, also last GM.

**Officer Questions:** No questions for that or Exec.

**Motions:** No amendments to constitution.

Private Members Notions: Equal opportunities: new constitution to have equal opportunities for all students, roll in three years, students involved in any way are protected under equality law. Update of Schedule 6, protecting students and rights. No oppositions or questions, up to vote on until 8pm tomorrow.

Safe Space Update: predecessor Sid created this, updated and reviewed this year, negatively portrayed in media but very important.

Question from: Harry Matyjaszek (HM) - how would it be implemented practically?

JK - Student opportunity groups such as societies would commit to it, then their responsible to have a person facilitate this, especially online.

HM: Specifies a safe space physically.

JK confirms a warning will be issued when safe space policy is breached, relies on people working together, can be asked to leave venue.

HM: Laws are already present, suggests there are two sides to every story and not black and white in saying safe space policy.

JK: Not for every environment, but can be used when necessary, used to have conversation without feeling attacked.

HM: Suggests society can deal with this separately. JK: Issue can be raised, chairperson can issue warning.

Jake Gibbons (JG): Does ideology remain in safe space?

JK: Opinions not at the extent of someone’s emotion.

JG: Power handed to students incorrectly, uses example of LGBT society, student was ejected without formal warning due to safe space policy.

JK: Self-definition is not the current debate. Idea is not about handing out power to individuals but to groups. Policy already exists, not applicable to all situations. Laura Lewis: Motion is not negating debates, protecting characteristics, not about disagreements, equalities law.

JG: Asking for updated Safe Space Policy.

JK: SU Website, on GM event.

Mark Winter: Question to procedure on who is making decisions, where is the procedure?

JK: Will be online, procedure is that a complaint is made and referred to president of the SU, decision of President to discuss membership etc. Not about policing students, not about power solely resting with Presidents.

Zero tolerance- JK: Draws on equality act constitution, response to harassment, encouraging harassment to be brought to attention. Module on SU website to report occurrences.

Steven Petitt- Problem with motion as based around very subjective opinions on what defines harassment, which includes social media, could claim as harassment when incorrect, confusion with freedom of expression.

JK: Equality Act 2010, applies to organization, intentional subjectivity, no true definition of harassment- only if makes someone uncomfortable, freedom of expression begins were another ends, protected and entitled to opinions. Already exists, alike to Safe Space Policy.

Toby Wells: 3.2.4 Cohesion- includes Students Union groups? Does that include Consent workshops?

JK: Would never coheres members to attend workshops. Nobody’s place to be told to attend. Within rights to report if committees force attendance, should be able to engage in conversation and apply accountability.

HM: 2.3- Behaviour making a member feel intimidated (subjective but previously answered), ‘directly offended’, 1. Phrase of directly offended, instead of ignoring.

JK: Would never encourage ignoring.

HM: Harassment is understandable. Easily abused.

JK: Understands aspects can be abused. Trying to create a space that at university one can be oneself, unlike outside of university phrases are semantics, can directly oppose motion.

HM: The process of feeling offended, cross-examination?

JK: Online reporting module, go straight to advisors, send an e-mail asking if they want a chat, welfare follow up, pin to venues, departments or President then disciplinarians will follow accordingly. Encouraging students to log reports to tally up at the end of the year to spot problems and respond accordingly.

No one opposed amendment. Voting open until tomorrow 8pm, you can vote at [www.su.rhul.ac.uk/gneneralmeeting](http://www.su.rhul.ac.uk/gneneralmeeting)

AOB: None.