



Wellbeing & Community Executive

Tuesday 30th September 18:00-20:00

Committee Room

Minutes

Apologies: Innes MacPhee (Gender Equality Officer), Celina Chen (BAME Officer, depute sent).

Present: Alex Chun (AC, President of Wellbeing & Community, Chair), Jay Martin (JM, Disability Officer), Jack McNealy (JMc, Accommodation Officer), Caeleigh Alexander (CA, Environment), Veronica Chiaravalli (VC, International Students' Officer), Joanna Barrow (JB, Student Health Officer), Omar Raza (OR, Widening Access and Participation Officer), Mackenzie (depute for Celina Chen, BAME Student Network), Zoe Bremner (Community Relations Officer), Lucy Reynolds (President of EaCES)

Present for part of the meeting: Eden Hodgkins (EH, LGBT+ Officer)

In attendance: Holly McDonald (HMc, Campaigns & Impact Co-ordinator, Secretary).

In attendance for part of the meeting: Elise Bateman (EB, Head of Student Engagement)

Meeting begins: 18:08

1. Welcome & Introductions (15 minutes)

AC welcomes the Executive members, and introduces themselves and their role. Each attendee went round the room introducing themselves and their roles.

a. How this Executive will function

AC introduced the purpose of this Executive. They requested written apologies for absence, and that each member is entitled to three unexplained absences per semester. Deputes or proxies are acceptable, with prior written notice. They explained that this meeting is for updates on relevant issue areas, collaboration, and passing/bringing forward wellbeing, community, and EDI motions. This should streamline the ability to make change. Issues with wider remit areas would also go to the most relevant Forum/Executive, or potentially the all-student forum. There is an empowering way forward and to make change.

2. Network budgets (15 minutes)

AC apologised for the delay in delivery of the budgets to Networks and officers. The relevant body to confirm the budget has not yet been able to convene. EB confirmed a Board meeting is next week, FAR will be called shortly thereafter to confirm budgets. Apologies were given by both AC and EB.

EB noted that anyone who has spent money on events etc should seek reimbursements, which will be actioned. Members can also go to the Cash Office and purchase on the Union credit card in the moment. There is a great deal of change in the Union, but budgets should be sorted soon. EB expressed that members may come to her with questions.

ZB asked for clarity about the process for reimbursements and where one goes to do this. EB responded and clarified how to do this,

JN asked to clarify if we can use the Union credit card. AC confirmed yes Officers & Networks can either use the credit card, or pay and get reimbursed. EB asked to be contacted should purchases be made to help expedite. EB's email is EHB20@ for reference, AC's is PresWell@.

EB reaffirmed their apologies for the delay in budgets.

JB double checked that it's acceptable to spend at this time, and AC and EB confirmed it is.

18:18: EB departed.

3. Papers:

a. EC-25-XX: CCMFL Officer (15 minutes)

AC clarified this is not a motion. This was submitted through Student Services. The elected officer is on a leave of absence, but the Network remains active. Student Services have been working with the 'acting officer' who is already on the Network and is a member of the committee.

Co-option is now open and will be for 2 weeks. It will then be discussed again at the next Executive in 2 weeks. Candidates will either attend in person, online, or with a 250 word statement. The Executive will then vote on who we feel is best placed to be the CCMFL officer, and from then they will be in post.

AC clarified that other students can be put forward, and the merits of each individual candidate will be considered. Advertisement of the co-option will also go in the weekly email.

4. AOB

AC asked for comment, AOB, or questions.

Divestment

CA: Environment Network is working on open letter to University on divesting from fossil fuel aligned companies, which the University is currently doing. A draft has been completed. Members can be a signatory, and they are seeking as many signatures as possible.

Leave of Absence (LoA)

Jay M – DSN are preparing something for All Student Forum as expect it is larger scale – that Leave of Absence students are unable to receive support or things like societies and sports clubs. Those more likely to take LoA are disabled, CCMFL, estranged, among others. They are working on a motion to address this at a wider level. They have spoken with the PresEd, and invite W&C Exec members to share thoughts.

LR noted they wish to be involved

AC mentioned that all-student forum will likely be in November

JMc asked if they are looking at forced LoAs as this has increased. JM confirmed they are looking at all LoAs in all forms. Discussion was raised on how supportive or not LoAs are.

All-Student Forum

JMc asked about the process of motion proposals to All-Student Forum, in light of Laws update.

AC noted that All-Student Forum will review new Laws (amongst other business), and these will then be voted on. It is preferable that new Laws pass easily. AC suggests reaching out to EB on how to go about writing motions or papers for the All-Student Forum.

CA – if Laws are being defined in first meeting, are other motions able to be brought up?

AC noted that other motions can be brought to the meeting as other business needs to be reviewed.

JMc questioned whether under accommodation we should still be utilising old Laws for now. AC confirmed yes, and advised speaking to EB for clarification on a case-by-case basis.

Wellbeing & Community Forum

ZB asked for clarity about the Forum meeting on Monday. AC explained that the Executive is for elected officers in the W&C area only. The Forum is also for all Network committee members, and interested students.

ZB clarified attendance and if we should send apologies. AC confirmed the need to send apologies (though the Forum meeting is only twice per semester). ZB mentioned they will be attending Community Council at the same time as the next Forum. There was a short discussion about Community Council between ZB, JM, and AC. Absence for Forum on 6th October noted for ZB.

How to Rent

JMc explained they will be working with VC on a 'How to Rent' talk with international students given the questions often sent in by parents and students. AC noted they wish to create a resource with support options across issue areas for Halls in Semester 2, which this could be added to.

LR- asked if this will also encompasses guarantors. JMc explained they are working on guarantors as a separate project with representatives and staff from the Union and the University.

a. StAnd Against Hate (30 minutes)

AC introduced the StAnd Against Hate campaign, aimed at targeting antisocial behaviour in St Andrews students and community widely. November focuses on mental health and resources, Transgender Day of Remembrance, Reclaim the Night, 16 Days of Activism, and Transfest. A short explanation of the origin of Reclaim the Night was given.

This campaign will involve various people from this group. FemSoc have previously done a map of where people feel safe and unsafe on campus (usually women fill this in), and AC suggested an equivalent map for students of colour.

Men's mental health awareness will also be covered in November given the Movember campaign. We will be working with StAnd Together on these campaigns, including safe behaviours on nights out.

AC is hoping to work on Reclaim the Night with a march and a speaker event, and is looking to also bring back the 'What Were You Wearing?' installation from Fife Women's Aid to the Union.

ZB – the police's involvement on RTN would come under their remit, so would like to get involved. They asked for further clarification on origins of RTN, which AC expanded upon.

EH: arrived 18:39

AC explained there was a Reclaim the Night panel last year, it isn't a protest as such it's more of a march/statement, drawing attention to GBV in St Andrews.

VC liked the nighttime safety element. They noted that it would be good for students who get too drunk in the Union not to get kicked out as it's a safety concern. VC has witnessed this directly and heard stories. Would like to work together on this, possibly establishing a room in the Union for drunk students to calm down, and making sure they get home safely.

AC mentioned there is a quiet room for water and a breather, and that often when students are asked to leave, it can co-occur with conduct issues. AC will bring this up to relevant operations staff to take forward.

JM mentioned previous issues around staff conduct and negative experiences linked to accessibility and in general. AC noted that these staff may be able to receive more relevant training around mental health and racial sensitivity. AC noted we need to be accessible on nights out, and hopes mental health awareness will help with this. Staff on nights out are here first and foremost to help.

CA mentioned they have sustainability training if that was desired. AC said that methods to improve sustainability are always sought.

CA: wiping down bars in the Union uses certain cloths that are thrown away after every shift which may be hazardous and poor for the environment. The Network's committee are looking into this.

AC suggested with more info we can take this to PresAffs, Bar Manager, and potentially building manager.

18:46: AC called an unmoderated caucus on the StAnd Against Hate campaign and other projects

19:01 AC called for return to meeting.

AOB

EDI Comms

AC noted that Pamela Dobsom from the University's EDI team has asked to pass on that Networks can include EDI events or initiatives to feature in a staff newsletter by emailing EDIComms@. This may be a good way to get staff involved in events.

Timeslot for Executive meetings

AC wanted to know if this timeslot works. Various members have meetings till 5pm, or committee meetings till 6pm.

Floated 6-7:30 on Mondays. ZB is unable to attend those slots due to other commitments.

Members decided to stick with this timeslot, though we may be unable to move from the Meeting Room due to existing room bookings.

Feedback on this meeting

CA – too many desks in the room to manoeuvre around.

JM thinks this is a good meeting

JMc asked about the former SRC budget for socials. AC suggested speaking with Senior Management on this.

ZB – CA mentioned they will be doing a food fayre next weekend in the piazza, just waiting for confirmation. ZB said that if anyone has events like this that are linked to the community in some way, please send them to ZB via email to help with reach, or an extra volunteer for help. ZB gave a short explanation of how Community Council works.

ZB: departed 19:09

EH – if anyone wants a Saints LGBT+ collaboration, please email them SaintsLGBT@

AC confirmed requests for feedback if members have any.

Meeting concluded 19:11