

Wellbeing & Community Executive Handover meeting

7th May 2026

18:00-19:30

Large Rehearsal Room

Present: Alex Chun (AC, PresWell), Jack McNealy (JMc, Outgoing Accommodation Officer), Veronica Chiaravalli (VC, Outgoing International Students' Officer), Celina Chen (CC, Outgoing BAME Officer), Lucy Reynolds (LR, Outgoing EaCES Officer), Josh Rooke (Disability Officer), Ava Byrne (AB, Incoming EaCES Officer), Caeleigh Alexander (CA, Outgoing Environment Officer), Rebecca Zammit Pace (RZP, Incoming International Students; Officer), Bartosz Rogala (BR, Incoming PresWell), Zara Rashid (ZR, Incoming Accommodation Officer), Ayesha Quyum (AQ, Incoming BAME Officer), Ciara Wheeler (CW, Incoming CCMFL Officer), Corey Long (CL, Incoming Gender Equality Officer)

Minutes by: Holly McDonald (HMc, Campaigns & Impact Coordinator)

Apologies: Eden Hodgkins (Outgoing LGBT+ Officer)

Meeting begins: 18:11

1. Introduction

AC introduced the meeting and asked for any brief updates from those present. CA said that Environment Network are holding a river walk on 15th May with vegan food and other offerings, and AC mentioned Pride Walk will be happening on 17th May and will include various stalls.

2. W&C Executive structure

AC raised that the W&C Forum works well in terms of the areas of discussion raised, especially the opportunities for staff consultation, but they feel that the Executive struggles to get Officers to attend with the intensity of meeting frequency as set out by the DemRev.

AC presented a short, proposed structure through a document. They referenced that other Forums/Executives had made some changes related to efficiency. They sought new feedback for the name of the PresWell role, with a view to removing 'Wellbeing' for reasons pertaining to logistics, such as students emailing asking for extension requests as they believe they are approaching their Wellbeing Officer within the

School. They flagged 'Wellness' had been vetoed by Elise Bateman. Alex referred to a number of proposed wording changes such as 'Liberation' 'Equality' 'Inclusion.' AC said that BR would have the final say in terms of naming decision as the new role holder.

ZR said that 'Liberation' felt political and was unsure on this. LR and AB would like Community to stay, and AB said that Student Services is moving in the direction of community or belonging in their language.

AC said that this would therefore change the name of the Executive and Forum.

CA asked if 'Community' would become tricky if ComRels would be within the Union Affairs remit. AB said that Widening Access would go into Union Affairs, and JMc mentioned it would be the same for accommodation.

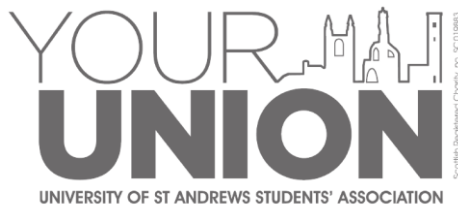
AC referenced the restructure as a result of the Laws change as seen at ASF last week. AC gave a bit of an update following further questions, and AC referenced that they felt they were overburdened with the number of officers they'd supported, and that the PresAffs had retained work within accommodation, widening access, environment and community relations, leading to the decision to split the oversight of officers. AC said that this would be the last meeting with Environment, Accommodation, ComRels, and Widening Access Officers.

CA asked if there will therefore be an equivalent meeting structure for these officers. AC and JMc replied in the affirmative. AC referenced new Laws which are available online, and the Standing Orders.

AC said that the W&C Executive (as it is currently termed), will represent Networks who represent student groups aligned to protected characteristics (LGBT+, Disabled Students, Gender Equality, BAME) and these will be 'Liberation Networks.' These groups will have to attend. The remaining networks will represent specific groups e.g. CCMFL, International, Wellbeing Network etc and be called 'Representation Networks.' They will be invited but it is not essential that they attend, with a view to reducing meeting fatigue. Other groups like StAnd Together and Nightline will be invited also. In addition, this will involve the creation of a Gender Equality Network.

AC said 'Wellbeing Network' will also have to be renamed, as recommended by Union SMT.

Veronica asked why the 'Liberation' Networks would have mandatory attendance, and AC said it was due to the law. They further added that the PresWell may not identify each of the protected characteristics, so the Networks can help advise based on lived experience, and would ensure that Union staff would give additional support to these Networks.



BR said that, for example, not having International Students' Network within the Liberation Networks would make things difficult in terms of losing out on working on important issues for that demographic, and ensuring the other voices are heard. They referenced feeling 'left-out' of decisions as a member of staff from StAnd Together.

AB clarified that there would be no penalty if Representational Networks didn't attend, but they'd still be invited. AC said this would be the case. AC wants to generally get rid of penalties related to attendance to be more mindful of demands on officer time.

ZR asked for clarity what their attendance would be as Accommodation Officer. AC reconfirmed they would be invited to Union Affairs spaces along with Environment, ComRels, and Widening Access. AC gave a short explanation of what the Union Affairs Executive is, along with the other Forums for clarity. AC said that they could attend other Forums if they wished.

VC said that this gives a separation and establishes a hierarchy of Networks, implying some are more important than others. AC thanked VC for sharing their view, and responded that it's not about making one Network more important than another (everyone will get the same funding, attention, and oversight), but the Liberation Networks are linked to legally protected identities.

RZP asked if we could come up with a system where the Executive is scheduled to meet the schedules of officers better instead. AC said that when the Executive met less frequently the attendance was still low and it was not as productive. AC also said that the Liberation Networks are called into policy work more with the University, and that they are looking to get these Networks compensated for this type of work. VC said that ISN and EaCES are relatively new compared to others, so they would not have the same opportunity to do as much policy work. AC said that the University is legally required to consult groups linked to protected characteristics, and AB said that the justification does not stand in the same way as the University has an obligation to consult EaCES on relevant work too. AB thinks the proposal takes some workload off Networks, but wants to flag that consultation with non 'Liberation Networks' still remains.

AC said that the Opps Forum is not just Officers, there are now VPs who attend. AC said that Saints LGBT+ shouldn't have to do as much logistical work as they seem to be expected to, in terms of things like Glitterball. The goal for AC was about recognising the additional support and expectations on certain Networks, and have staff help when PresWells do not identify with certain characteristics.

Lucy asked if there would be stipulation for Liberation Networks to be kept up to date to recognise when protected characteristics are updated. AC said they had made a note to this effect, and that this proposed change reflects structures at other unions.

CW said that CCMFL is in part about age which is a protected characteristic. AC said it's not about protected characteristics solely, it's also about trying to streamline the officers' workload. CW was in support broadly, and would still like to be invited to meetings. AC said that we have struggled to meet quorum, and this will help lower the quorum threshold. They said this structure helped EduExec meet quorum too, and leaving it open for others to attend by invitation, allowing business to get done.

AC said everyone would have same voting power and would not be "demoted."

VC asked if anyone would still be able to vote. AC said yes, and they could also vote in absence. VC asked if this structure was confirmed, AC said no, it's consultative and about identifying issues before coming to a firm structure. AC said they had not considered the possible 'hierarchy' and wanted to reduce some burden and strain from officers, so they don't feel the need to attend every single meeting when busy, and again referenced the increased consultation and expectations on the 'Liberation' Networks. AC asked what would ensure it wasn't a demotion of any kind. VC said they'd be pressed to give an answer now, but would think about it. AC said it wasn't set in stone, and that amendments can be made next year.

AB asked if the meetings would continue in hybrid format, AC confirmed yes.

CW suggested that there was an implicit hierarchy in terms of Liberation being active vs Representation feeling passive. AC said we could change the names, such as 'Equality Networks.'

BR asked about the PresWell being able to invite anyone to the Executive and if they're all able to vote. AC said only elected officers could vote. BR asked if there were limits as to who could be invited, such as non-affiliated groups. AC said they have to be students, but non-affiliated groups could come in should they wish, as long as they abided by relevant policy.

BR asked about 'Student Health Officer' and how their remit would change. AC said they've always run Wellbeing Network, it's just that the Network name would change. BR asked how the name change process would look to ratify it. AC said this was consultation, they'd have final say with BR, final vote at ASF, and then Board after that, and that there was support from SMT for the name change.

ZR suggested more inter-officer communication could reduce the hierarchy that the naming implies, and a better system in general for discussion and collaboration. AC referenced previous mixer events and the group chat.

AC said that both the Execs and Forums are both formal and minutes are taken, and asked if an informal meeting would be preferable. AB said these meetings should have minutes to keep up with what's happening and provide accountability.

AC said that when they were the Gender Equality Officer, they felt isolated and did their own thing, struggling to get responses from staff and officers, and hence they suggested a mixer and group chat to facilitate conversation. ZR suggested they could have one or two mandatory meetings with all the officers together, such as two per semester (pre and post ILW). There was another suggestion of Week 1 and then a week after ILW, which was warmly met by others in the group. ZR thinks being able to access minutes to keep them up to date would also help. AC said everyone will get agenda and minutes.

VC asked if they have to be called different names for the Network classification. AC said we could just have it 'Mandatory' vs 'Open' membership.

ZR said there should be a big poster explaining all the Forums and who fits where. AC agreed and said the Executive Officer Team could work on this with a calendar for the year for Executives & Forums already booked and shared with everyone.

LR asked if there could be consultation with officers on meeting times. AC said that we have done this before, but teaching hours for everyone are different. AC said they will promise to try, but can't promise it will fit everyone's schedule 100% of the time.

AB asked what would happen with Saints LGBT+ as no officer has been elected yet, and how things like penalties and the new structure could work. AC said there has been some interest in the role, and those interested have been approached for feedback on the changes. AC said work would stay the same for everyone, if anything they would try to reduce it where possible.

BR asked for an explanation about how officers can use space in the Union. AC said there will be more to come on this in July and how to use things like the Cash Office, book rooms etc. BR asked how StAnd Together can use Union spaces if they are invited to the Executives/Forums. AC said that StAnd Together have a set number of hours they can use already. BR clarified about if StAnd Together can access the representation space. AC said they should have access to it already; they just need to email to ensure they have access via the keycard. AC said no food or drink could be stored in those spaces, and said StAnd Together have some storage space in there already. AC said this space will soon only be for Representation Networks.

VC asked about storage space, and said ISN have lost some items. AC will show them where the storage space is on the Middle Floor, and asked people to let them know if they lost things this year. If items have been lost, AC said they would be reimbursed for purchasing replacements.



CW asked when officer handover is. AC said it will be in July. ZR said they'd had an email that they'd start 1st June when academic year officially ends, and June will be overlap between current and new officers. AC referenced a meeting in summer to help with handover and access to IT. AC said they are moving away from individual handovers where knowledge may not be imparted such as information about Union systems. AC recommended contacting Elise Bateman (EHB20@) with questions related to this.

CL asked about new Gender Equality Network. AC said they can continue as officer for a time as it was not in their role description, rather than immediately creating a Network. Gender Equality officer is expected to be involved in SGBV Forum and Athena Swan, and cited additional staff support with the SGBV Forum. Otherwise, the role will remain the same, but they can build a Network if they wish, and other officers can do the same should they wish for support.

VC liked Inclusion for the name. BR likes Belonging, Equality, and Inclusion. AC referenced some University staff didn't like the removal of Equality from the previous DoWell name. BR said that the DemRev changed the DoWell into PresWell through student consultation. AC said that there was no student consultation on this, and they are now trying to 'make up for' this (JMc also said there was no consultation). BR checked that consultation would be at ASF, AC said yes, and then it would go to Board thereafter and for implementation following.

VC said if their points were considered, they were happy to "not disagree." Hands were raised unanimously in agreement, subject to the suggested amendments being made. AC will make amendments, take to ASF, and later to Board. AC said that President name change will be up to AC and BR.

Meeting closed 19:13.