**Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday 8th February

**Location:** Zoom

**Members**

Charlie Lavender (Chair/TNBIGI+ Officer) [CLa]

Chike Dike (SU President) [CD]

Norah Valerie Deka (VP Education) [NVD]

Holly Tyack (VP Student Opportunities) [HT]

Fatima Farha (VP Welfare & Community) [FF]

Dan Merry (Student Representative) [DM]

Zainab Abdul-Obitayo (DAND Officer) [ZAO]

Julnar Sharif (AAEM Officer) [JS]

& 71 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]

Chloe Lockett (SUBU Advice Manager) [CL]

Tammy Bowie (Student Opportunities Manager) [TB]

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

Alan Dove (Director of Commercial Services) [AD]

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# 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 and a vote was taken.

# Approve: 44

# Reject: 0

# Abstain: 4

## ***Minutes Approved***

# Trustee Board Update

# Presented by CD

# Key points noted:

# The Trustee Board have not met in full since the last report although a sub-group, the Human Resources Committee did meet in January. The next Trustee Board meeting will be on the 21st February.

# Due to the above, there are minimal items to discuss.

# The most recent Human Resources Committee was focused on the change set out by the government around National Minimum Wage increases as this will affect the student staff mainly working in Commercial Services venues.

# Full-Time Officer Reports

# **President’s Report**

# CD presented.

# Key points noted:

# Has been working on support for community kitchen and cost of living crisis by organizing and providing food at supper club and supporting other officers with campaigns to help students reduce exam stress and financial burdens.

# Focusing on second manifesto point which is on increasing the range of part-time work available to students. CD has worked with the university to produce a university wide placement report alongside VP Student Opportunities. This report was presented to academics and coordinators of all faculties and met with positive feedback and saw a lot of tangible action.

# Focusing on working with Dorset police to ensure the safety of students remains a priority, CD has worked on lobbying the university to establish the campus patrol team which now frequent campus. Then having consistent catchups with the university to monitor performance of these patrols.

# Focusing on international students, the international buddy scheme has been a great success as a peer-to-peer support team for international students, seeing great numbers of applications and volunteers. Applications are closing soon, and training will be held in the coming weeks.

# **Vice President Education Report**

# NVD presented.

# Key points noted:

# Focusing on ensuring students are receiving the right amount of support within the university which includes lecture recordings. Having spoken to BU, they now have data of rooms fitted with lecture recordings and captioning and noted there are only a few rooms with the capability to do this but the conversation on how to expand this provision is now open.

# NVD has worked on promoting personal tutors and developing assessment feedback. This came up recently in an education committee and BU are looking at assessment timelines specifically and the way assessments are done.

# Is currently looking to explore academic societies and expand the provision of theses. Between SUBU and BU, these are fully supported, and most courses are covered by societies but there is a lack of patrons to help oversee these societies.

# Focused on amplifying students voice and supporting marginalised students. This initially explored creating an international part time officer but is not currently being pursued due to capacity concerns of that role and instead the focus is on exploring alternative options to support international students.

# Final point is focused on supporting students with their workloads and stress for academic success. This was done through a series of events in January which provided massages, plant potting, free breakfasts, and exam care packages. Further work is being undertaken on this to explore dissertation de-stressing activities.

# **Vice-President Student Opportunities Report**

# HT presented

# Key points noted:

# Has largely concluded work on obtaining a coach membership for clubs and societies to use. Now using a platform called We move which makes it much easier to source a coach. Students bid on their coach and effectively get around 30% in most cases.

# Currently working closely with SportsBU and thinking about how to use campus sport and work closely with them and is opening conversations on how to collaborate more.

# Additionally focusing on implementing women’s only gym hours and have agreed that there will be a slot in the gym timetable for women only, providing a safe space to work out and exploring introducing women only work out classes with SportBU.

# Has confirmed there will be 32 new seats being added to the Lansdowne campus after it was recognised there was very little space present. Focusing also on being far more present there as staff and officers.

# Finally, a large majority of their work has gone into placement support and as CD mentioned, they met with BU and BU have been incredibly receptive to their report and have organised a few actions to take.

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

# FF presented

# Key points noted:

# Currently focused on work around international students housing and recognising that may often live in informal rental situations. To make this more safe for students, they are looking to partner with private landlords to explore housing campaigns and local agencies to aid students in making the right choice for their landlord and property. Additionally received an update on guarantor scheme for students, especially international students who may not have access to a guarantor. The university seem open to this and are looking to increase student retention during November to justify the possible commitment.

# Looking to expand work on allyship hub and are now exploring a series of sessions with SUBU staff to gain knowledge on microaggressions and different cultural and religious needs of students. So that once staff are more aware this will then permeate into what support students receive.

# The work focused on streamlining student feedback channels has largely been completed as BU introduced an online portal to provide complaints about academic and non-academic matters.

# Finally, the focus on diversifying access to mental health support through student well being services has been worked on by presenting a report from speak week and focus group findings on mental health to the PVC of student experience and BU well-being manager. The recommendations ranged from more face-to-face counselling to communicating current services. This was taken on board by BU and now the focus is on bringing much of it into effect.

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

# Lapsing Policies Review

# **Should SUBU lobby BU to ensure that the length of teaching days and sessions are time appropriate, with consultation from students?**

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

# Retain: 57

# Lapse: 6

# Abstain: 2

# **Policy Retained**

# **Should SUBU stand in solidarity with the UCU’s ‘Four Fights’, prioritise transparent information and educate students?**

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

# Retain: 12

# Lapse: 31

# Abstain: 10

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **Inclusive Campus: Masks, Toilets and Facilities**

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

# Retain: 14

# Lapse: 41

# Abstain: 2

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **Rename the Students with Disabilities Officer and Campaign to the Disabilities, Accessibility and Neuro-Diverse Officer and Campaign.**

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

# Retain: 7

# Lapse: 49

# Abstain: 3

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **Should SUBU lobby the university to ban smoking and vaping on campus other than in designated sheltered smoking areas?**

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

# Retain: 48

# Lapse: 12

# Abstain: 1

# **Policy Retained**

# **Should SUBU lobby BU to provide a free replacement ID card?**

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

# Retain: 23

# Lapse: 33

# Abstain: 2

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **Improve sustainability through bettering the plant-based options available on campus.**

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

# Retain: 14

# Lapse: 40

# Abstain: 3

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **SUBU should allow for the creation of free clubs and societies**

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

# Retain: 9

# Lapse: 43

# Abstain: 3

# **Policy Lapsed**

# **Should SUBU lobby BU to issue exam supplies cost-free?**

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

# Retain: 14

# Lapse: 40

# Abstain: 4

# **Policy Lapsed**

# 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 revise criteria and accessibility of BU DSA grant.

# SUBU to lobby BU to improve students right to freedom of expression.

# SUBU to explore more diverse food options across campus.

# Discussion Group Amendments:

# SUBU to lobby BU to revise criteria and accessibility of BU DSA grant

# *Amended point 2 in Ideas for solution to include – ‘(dyslexia)’*

# *Added point 4 in Ideas for solution – ‘Implement the support before certificate is received’.*

# SUBU to lobby BU to improve students right to freedom of expression.

# *Policy pending finalisation, amendments will be noted with policy finalised.*

# SUBU to explore more diverse food options across campus.

# *Added point 5 in Ideas for solutions – ‘Investigate and propose which animal welfare standards are applicable to the improvement in food provision in BU and SUBU outlets’*

# Speeches and Vote:

# SUBU to lobby BU to revise criteria and accessibility of BU DSA grant.

# Speech For: ZAO

# This policy is focused on increasing the opportunity for students to access the DSA grant offered by BU as the current restrictions mean many students find the process incredibly taxing and difficult and are unable to access funds that may be vital. Barriers presented include evidence of household income which often does not account for a student’s true financial circumstances.

# Policy is intended to mitigate these problems and barriers by introducing self-diagnosis or removing the international student barrier and evidence of household income.

# Speech Against: None

# Call to vote:

# For: 43

# Against: 0

# Abstain: 4

# **Passes**

* 1. SUBU to lobby BU to improve students right to freedom of expression.

# Speech For: None

# No speech or vote was given for this policy due to requiring further discussion which will be arranged post summit, and this section will be updated accordingly with the results.

# Speech Against: None

# Call to vote: No vote called, see above.

# For: N/A

# Against: N/A

# Abstain: N/A

# **Pending**

* + 1. SUBU to explore more diverse food options across campus.
    2. Speech For: JS
* Policy is focused on exploring more diverse foods covering more dietary requirements such as halal foods, kosher foods and within the breakout room there was a focus on lactose intolerant food and gluten free food. This stems of a concern raised by many international and home students who complain about the number of limited food options across Talbot campus and Lansdowne.
* The policy explores the introduction of a more diverse range of food options and to also consider the animal welfare standard that will be applicable.
  + 1. Speech Against: None
    2. Call to vote:
* For: 42
* Against: 1
* Abstain: 1

# **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.