



BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting 7 January 2020.

Present: Adeyinka Balogun (Chair - AB), Samantha Leahy-Harland (CEO - SLH), Charlotte Morris-Davis (CMD), Abidemi Abiodun (AA), Lea Ediale (LE), Lenrick Greaves (LG), Joanna Ann (JA), Mohamed Hamad (MH), Calvin McKenzie (CM), Georgia Hill (GH), Ann-Marie Kankam (AMK), Rowan Bratchell (RB), Sarah Chelsea Lawrence (SCL), Toluwa Atilade (TA), Tatiana Lutgens (TL), Syahirah Syamsul Kairi (SSK), Whitney Idowu (WI), Naomie Lebe (NL), Bonnie Milligan (BM).

Apologies: Jodi Nwasike (JN), Ntobeko Sengwayo (NS).

Did not attend: Rebecca Hughes (RH), Nora Maganga (NM).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 AB Chaired the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 SLH noted that they were not present at the previous meeting.

2.2 GH noted that on page two they were referencing Faculty Rep, not Student Advisor

2.3 JA noted that the details of the discussion with AD were not included. Consensus that minutes should be uniform in level of detail throughout.

Minutes approved

3. FULL- TIME OFFICER ROLE REVIEW

- 3.1 LG led item, discussed the role that Exec have in reviewing FTO roles, and the need for them to be reviewed in accordance with SUBU's priorities. In this year's review the proposal is to move from 5 to 4 FTO's. The roles would be President, Vice-President Student Opportunities, Vice-President Education and Vice-President Welfare and Community. The President and Vice-President Education roles would remain largely unchanged. The role of Vice-president Activities is proposed to become Vice-President Student Opportunities, employability, personal development and widening participating would now become central parts of the roles. This role would also allow closer alignment between the FTO role and the newly formed Student Opportunities Department. The role of Vice-President Community and Vice-President Welfare would be merged in to one role. Across the sector a lot of SU's have moved in this direction. There is a natural alignment between the roles when you look at key areas such as mental health, Safe Nights out, Halls, all of which have a cross over between Community and Welfare.
- 3.2 JA referenced budgets cuts across SUBU and stated that two FTO's working together a lot is not cost effective. LE stated that budget cuts were not the dominant reason for the reduction in FTO

roles. LG reiterated that finance was not a predominant factor but rather the opportunity to realign.

- 3.3 LG we had been looking at a flat structure but it is not possible at this time, but something that should be addressed by our successors.
- 3.4 NM asked how effective this change would be. LE referred to the previous FTO structure, stating that it is not fixed and is able to be amended to suit the current needs of the organisation. AA any change is not permanent and can be reviewed but we must make the best decision for SUBU.
- 3.5 SLH stated that across the sector four FTO's is more in line with a union of our size and workload would be managed to ensure that there wasn't a detriment to the service
- 3.6 General discussion around the role of the VP Welfare and Community. LG there is no consensus as to what the role of the VP Welfare and EO should be and it is highly dependent on the person in the role. In its current form it should not be its own role, merging it with Community gives it clearer definition. AM questioned that if welfare was so important why wouldn't it be its' own role, and SUBU to do more to define it. LG stated that we must define what welfare means to SUBU but until we get to that place we should focus on the lived experience of students. Clearly defining welfare and community should be a priority work area of SUBU Advice and the new Vice President Welfare and Community.
- 3.7 SLH stated that stated that the roles are a framework and the individuals who are elected can create flexibility thereby sharing priorities and workload
- 3.8 GH questioned whether it would be possible for the workload to be spread out and managed. LG answered that it would be possible but there would need to be more of a focus on training and working the FTO's into the framework of the union. AA stated that they would be streamlining the meetings that they attend.
- 3.9 RB stated that they were concerned about the perception that students would have if we were to combine the roles as most students are privy to these conversations. CM stated that it should be explained properly, the role is not being removed but becoming more manageable. SLH stated that detailed job descriptions would be coming to the group so they could get a better sense of the roles. LG stated that the role of VP Welfare has little tangible meaning and is entirely dependant on the person in post and as it is so flexible areas can be missed. LG stated that he is always looking at ways to redefine his role and the same needs to be done to these roles as they have not been 'cracked', SUBU is not alone in this across the sector officer roles are constantly evolving. JA stated that the overlap between the two roles was significant therefore Welfare would still be important. AA stated that we should talk to students about why this decision has been made.
- 3.10 AB took a vote: FTO Roles were approved: Job description to be approved at the next meetin.

Vote passed

4. FTO ELECTIONS

- 4.1 AB noted the key dates and Officers. CM stated that he was unsure as to the roles of the Officers, CMD gave an overview.

Vote passed

5. NUS DELEGATE ELECTIONS

5.1 AB stated that nominations opened yesterday and the election would be similar to what they would have run in. The NUS Conference is from the 31st of March until the 2nd of April and is an opportunity to elect NUS Officers, and is the largest body of students. Stated that it a great opportunity particularly for those who want to run to be FTO's

5.2 JA asked for clarity with regards to the Gender ratio, CMD explained that we needed to return at least 2 self-defining women.

6. THERAPY DOG

6.1 SCL gave a presentation on the need that students have to access a therapy dog including a survey of 100 BU students. LG commended the presentation particularly regarding the student feedback. AM questioned whose responsibility would it be to look after the dog and what we be done for students who do not like dogs. JA said that on consensus it probably wouldn't be SUBU who would have a therapy dog but that we could bring dogs on to campus more regularly. JA stated that there will be a halls road show where the dogs will be taken along with Samaritans. RB reiterated that SUBU should not have a resident dog but should increase the frequency they come on to campus which removes elements of responsibility from SUBU.

6.2 GH stated that another survey should be done to ensure the validity of the results. RB raised that the need spoke to a much wider mental health issue

6.3 SLH to take this feedback to Student Services and ALS and see if there is flexibility elsewhere within BU to facilitate this. AB this should be a standing agenda item.

7. APPROVING TERM TWO MEETING DATES

7.1 AB sought to approve the following dates 03/03/2020 4pm, 19/03/2020 4pm and 31/03/2020 4pm but noted that there was cross over with the NUS Conference and as such there would be issue with making quorum, so would only be seeking to approve the first two dates.

Vote passed

8. AOB

8.1 A discussion regarding FTO elections and eligibility of candidates. LG stated that FTO's are either recent graduates or placement students. JA noted that some courses would not let you do it as a placement.

8.2 TL asked about Liberation Updates. Gave an update about LGBT+ History Month. TA discussed cervical cancer awareness event to take place on the 21st of January on the GF of SUBU. SSK discussed Chinese New Year event to take place on the 7th of February.

8.3 AB raised that committee members were on their phone throughout and this was disrespectful. Phones should not be used during the meeting

8.4 BM asked for photos to be taken and for the Exec to collect their hoodies.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed