

Minutes of the Officer Committee Meeting – 24th August 2009

Below are the CONFIRMED Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Officer Committee which was held on 24th August 2009 at 1 pm in the Training Room

Present	Dani Beckett	President
	Tom Waltho	Finance & Services Officer
	Sam Brown	Academic Affairs Officer
	Dan Pine	Equal Opportunities Officer
	Matt Bond	Welfare Officer
	Gail Stephens	CEO
	Kerry Jane Radford	Democracy & Executive Support Assistant

OC/09/10/04/1 AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

OC/09/10/04/2 APOLOGIES

Sam Gill	Sports Officer
Ben Heaton	Societies Officer
Tom Wilson	Media Officer
Kate Healey	Hallam Volunteering Officer
Martin Percival	Education Officer
Farhan Ahmed	International & Black Students Officer
Clare Cowen	DCEO - Director of Member Services

OC/09/10/04/3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Proposed	Academic Affairs Officer
Seconded	Equal Opps Officer
Against	0
Abstentions	1
In favour – Passed	

OC/09/10/04/4 MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION POINTS

Officers were asked to note that all media areas have now been classified as Societies and therefore no longer have Committee status. The Finance & Services Officer will take a look at how the Societies Committee will interact with Media. A report will be brought back to the group. **AP - TW**

OC/09/10/04/5 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

OC/09/10/04/6 CEO BUSINESS SUBMITTED

No business submitted.

OC/09/10/04/7 OFFICER BUSINESS**7.1 Governance**

The steering group are looking at Officer roles. The President explained the consultation process.

7.2 Equal Opportunities Policy

Policy was updated to reflect the changes to the Constitution. All policies will be reviewed to ensure they comply with current legislation.

Proposed	Finance & Services Officer
Seconded	Welfare Officer
Against	0
Abstentions	0
In favour – Passed	

7.3 Society Ratification

The aims and objectives of the Politics Society were presented for approval.

Concerns were raised about the group's intention to hold debates and Officers stressed the Society should be educational based and not campaign based. Committee members requested that the Society members were informed that they did not have exclusive rights on debating and that they were made aware of ultra vires.

Proposed	Equal Opps Officer
Seconded	Welfare Officer
Against	0
Abstentions	0
In favour – Passed	

7.4 Welfare at Freshers

Issues were raised by the Welfare Officer with regards to welfare during freshers' week. The Officer was assured that every step had been taken to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for everyone; he was also informed that the Union complies with all legal requirements. Campaigning is also taking place around safe drinking, sexual health and general wellbeing. Water points will also be made available.

7.5 SHU Life Freshers Edition

A paper was presented to the Committee by the Finance & Services Committee requesting approval to design and print a freshers' edition of SHU Life. The Officer informed the group that he would be guest editor for this edition as no student is currently occupying the position. He indicated that advertising had already been secured for the edition and that by not running the edition revenue could be lost. Advertising would meet the costs of the first edition, however it was unknown if advertisers would be satisfied with a slim downed version of the magazine. The CEO will check advertising figures. **AP - GS**

A group discussion about whether the edition should be student led ensued. Some group members felt that if no student had approached the Officer to edit or contribute to the magazine, this shows that currently there isn't interest in the magazine, however the Finance & Services Officer pointed out that students wouldn't be aware that they could get involved if they didn't know the magazine existed - he explained that the edition would be an advertising tool to students, to inform them that the SHU Life is in circulation and that they can get involved. Questions about whether this would set a precedent if students continued not to come forward were voiced, as students would expect more editions to be available as term progresses.

The President was concerned with the amount of time it would take for the magazine to be produced and how much time the Finance & Services Officer would have to commit to editing. Varying timescales were available (dependant on size on magazine), but an estimation would be approximately 1 day - 18th September is the target date for release with 14th September as deadline day.

Several Officers remarked that they like the idea of having the magazine around during freshers' week as it enables media to engage with students right from the start of term. It would also be seen as a promotional tool and an informative edition highlighting what's on and what students can get involved in. Group members also suggested that by producing the magazine it would unfairly promote one aspect of Union activity and this would be unjust as other areas would not be given the same platform.

After the discussion, the President asked the Committee to vote.

Proposed	Finance & Services Officer
Seconded	Welfare Officer
Against	2
Abstentions	1
In favour – Passed	

7.6 Life membership

All life memberships were unanimously approved.

OC/09/10/04/8

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

A report on the recent Active Political Leadership training was given by the President.

The Academic Affairs Officer has recently returned from the AMSU Student Rep Conference.

OC/09/10/04/9

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

There was no emergency business.

OC/09/10/04/10

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Information about the Miss University UK contest has been circulated to full time Officers and other relevant individuals.

The possibility of a disability awareness day was raised by the Welfare Officer.

Unilink bus service is inaccessible to disabled students. The Welfare Officer will be submitting a paper to the Officer Committee to campaign to make the bus route more accessible. Officers were asked to consider if this would be ultra vires. **AP - MB**

OC/09/10/04/11

DATE, TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7th September at 3.30 pm in the Training Room.