Swansea University Students’ Union AGM Minutes

Monday, March 27, 2017, Refectory, Fulton House, 18:00

Attended by: Current Executive Committee, and Executive Committee Elect, members of the Union

AGM Agenda:

1. Voting
2. Presentation of Audited Accounts
3. Appointment and Removal of Honorary Life Members (HLM)
4. Officer Accountability
5. Trustee Report
6. Motion for Full-Time Equality Officer
7. Meet your new Officers

(Due to technical difficulties, some agenda points happened in an order different from the proposed agenda.)

Lloyd Harris, President, welcomed all in attendance, and introduced the agenda for the meeting.

1. Voting (with Lloyd Harris)
   a. Lloyd Harris introduced all attendees to the ballot slips in front of them, briefly explaining that one ballot is for Honorary Life Membership, and the other ballot is for the Motion for a Full-Time Equality Officer

2. Audited Accounts (with Chris Wilson)
   a. Financial year up for review is August 2015 to July 2016
   b. Union always has clean audits, past three years have had clean audits with no recommendations, a very good thing
   c. Trustees up for review are as follows
      i. President: Lewys Aron
      ii. Societies & Services: Sam Uche
      iii. Welfare: Lloyd Harris
      iv. Sports: Felix Mmeka
      v. Education: Robiu Salisu
      vi. Co-opted Trustee: Howard Morgan
      vii. Co-opted Trustee: Ali Morris
   d. Financial year in question had two interim CEOs before current CEO was hired, Scott Farmer, Martin Caldwell, and current CEO is Dr. Minkesh Sood
   e. Unrestricted Funds: £435,030
   f. Restricted Funds (Sports & Societies): £155,258
   g. Total Income: £6,602,646, with the block grant coming from the University
   h. Drastic drop in Other Commercial Activities due to change in relationship with Sin City
   i. Important thing to note is the change in how the pension scheme is viewed
      i. Scheme is designed to have employees pay some of their salary into it, employer will do the same, that money is then invested and cashed in at a later date
      ii. SUSS pension scheme in deficit £1,231,823 as of July 1st 2016
iii. Liability is not something the Union needs to pay now, could continue for another 20 years, will be dependent on the state of the financial market

j. Voting to Approve the Audited Accounts for the Financial Year of August 2015 to July 2016 done by a show of hands
   i. Audited Accounts approved
      1. 1 vote of abstention

3. Appointment and Removal of Honorary Life Members (with Jack Fossey)
   a. A brief overview recounting what the traits are that someone nominated for Honorary Lifetime Membership should have
   b. The following individuals have been nominated for Honorary Lifetime Membership to Swansea University Students’ Union, and all members in attendance at the AGM could vote For, Against, Abstain on the HLM ballot during this section
      i. Hayley Harris
      ii. Zachariah Baker
      iii. Charlotte West
      iv. Will Kay
      v. Chris Wilson
      vi. Joshua Hale
      vii. Will Bennet
      viii. Geraldine Smits
      ix. Courtney Vasile
      x. Andy Pover
      xi. Declan Murphy
      xii. Rafia Haque
      xiii. Steph Dalton
      xiv. Ewan Hellier High
      xv. Menna Harley
      xvi. Stephen Walcott
      xvii. Alec Bowen
      xviii. Geraint Lee
      xix. Aimee Pink
      xx. Ludovica Tramontin
      xxi. Lewis Israel

4. Trustee Report (with Lloyd Harris)
   a. This report is given on behalf of the Trustees of the Union
   b. There are currently:
      i. 5 Full-Time Officers
      ii. 3 Co-opted Trustees
      iii. 17 Part-Time Officers
   c. This is all in accordance with the Union’s Articles of Governance, which is currently looking to expand the Board of Trustees to include Alumni Trustees and Student Trustees
   d. Recent move to the Digital Technium has allowed for more engagement with the students, and the Union has received recognition for this
e. Awarded Best Campaign for Movember, and Staff Member of the Year for Martin Caldwell at recent NUS Wales event
f. The Union is once again nominated for Sports & Societies
g. The Union has recruited a new CEO, Dr. Minkesh Sood
h. The NSS Survey shows that students are in the top quartile, the Union working alongside the University to offer full student experience

5. Officer Accountability (with Robyn Lock)
a. Due to some technical difficulties, Officer Accountability video could not be portrayed, instead, the Full-Time Officer team came on stage and delivered their updates in person, video is available on YouTube
b. Each Full-Time Officer will share their top three achievements, what was not achieved, what the officer would like their successor to continue with
   i. Robyn
      1. Movember campaign, The Shed
      2. Want to see Sports to be continued to be supported by University, especially Estates and Marketing
   ii. Jack
      1. LGBT+ History month with rainbow paint and flag at Abbey, setting up Nightline again, Microwave on Singleton Campus in Digital Technium
      2. Was not able to set up sleep pods or a nap space
      3. Want successor to continue with counselling services and nap space
   iii. Chris
      1. Increasing bookable space with Mosaig, opening of Root, Post Office approved to go into Costcutter
      2. Community feel on Bay Campus not as successful and endeavour as hoped for
      3. Hopes successor will continue to work on community feel on Bay Campus, and perhaps create Student Union app listed on manifesto
   iv. Lloyd
      1. Move to Digital Technium, Suicide Awareness Workshops, Working on transport to and from Bay Campus
      2. Unable to successfully make changes to Singleton Park
      3. Hopes successor will work on making Bay Campus a more sociable space
   v. Robiu
      1. Getting rid of Saturday exams, revamped Education Zone and received NUS recognition for this, Study Aid
      2. Unable to get free printing sorted
      3. Hopes successor will continue with initial legwork put in place concerning free printing for all students
c. Just a few highlights from Part-Time Officer achievements
   i. Judit helped with Bigger Picture event
   ii. Liam worked alongside Drink Aware Crew
   iii. Jack Stacey was heavily involved in NUS NSS referendum
   iv. Kevin helpful in welcoming international students
   v. Sean and Jess ran the Gender 101 workshops
vi. Rachel very active in the Education Committee
vii. Shona and Jainaba ran successful Fempowerment event
viii. Laura attended NUS Wales Conference
ix. Alun worked tirelessly to promote Welsh Forums, helped with Welsh Translators

6. Motion for Full-Time Equality Officer (with Robiu Salisu)
   a. A brief explanation of how motions are handled in the Union was offered: the motion is put forward to Student Voice team, it is then raised at the AGM allowing for/against arguments, all students can vote for parts, parts can be removed, any removing of parts to be done with a show of hands
   b. Format of a motion is as follows
      i. This Union Notes
      ii. This Union Believes
      iii. This Union Resolves
   c. Motion is proposed by current Women’s Part-Time Officer Jainaba Conteh, and seconded by current Mental Health Part-Time Officer Shona Johnson
   d. Robiu chaired and moderated the debating section of the motion
      i. Speakers from the floor invited to stand in opposition of the motion
         1. What are the stats actually representative of?
         2. Good idea in principle but not feasible, not cost effective, current team of FTOs always have time to talk to PTOs, issue of identifying as each liberation group
      ii. Jainaba offered chance to counter
         1. The SU is not very present in the wider student community, campaigns were not run in a clear and supportive manner
      iii. Robiu opened it up to the floor to hear another round or two of discussion by a show of hands For, Against, Abstain – For had the most votes
      iv. Another speaker For the motion
         1. PTOs struggle to campaign successfully as they are only part time, issue of standing up for equality instead of what you believe is equality – wanting an officer that can stand for everyone
      v. Another speaker Against the motion
         1. The Union has policies on Liberation forums, there are support mechanisms in place and instead of creating a new Full-Time Officer position, the current procedures just need to be used and supported more, the main issue is engagement, and the ends will not justify the means
   vi. Another speaker For the motion
      1. The Welfare position should not be responsible for Liberation PTOs, used to be the Womens’ Officer, difficulty of running campaigns, funding could be found somewhere for the position if people looked hard enough
   vii. Another speaker Against the motion
      1. Having one individual is not going to represent every liberation equally, no matter how hard he/she tries
   viii. Proposer has a minute to summarise the reason for the motion
1. The Equalities Officer is needed because it was difficult to run campaigns as PTOs

   e. Robiu at this point offered a summary of what This Union Notes, This Union Believes and This Union Resolves

   f. Robiu asked all members in attendance to vote For, Against, Abstain on the Motion ballot, to be counted and announced at a later date

7. Meet your new Officers
   a. Elections (with Lloyd Harris)
      i. Student Elections were run a couple weeks ago
         1. 3,174 students voted, with 22,203 votes cast in total
         2. Amendments to the Articles of Governance passed
         3. All affiliations approved
   b. President Elect had a few words on behalf of the Trustees’ Elect
      i. Chisomo Phiri is grateful to be elected to be president next year, and is looking forward to working for the students with her team. She just wanted to state that figures and expenditures show how much work goes into the Union and gets put back into the students. Everyone will be equally represented in the Full-Time Officer Team.
   c. Closing statement (with Lloyd Harris)
      i. He apologizes for technical difficulties, thanks everyone for their attendance, reminding everyone to sign the register, and to hand in voting slips
      ii. HLM winners will be shared on the Union website once voting has been tallied

8. Voting Breakdown
   a. Motion received 214 voting ballots, and did NOT pass
      i. For: 96
      ii. Against: 100
      iii. Abstain: 18
   b. HLM received 218 voting ballots
      i. Everyone shortlisted is receiving HLM