



All Student Meeting 2009/10

Minutes
Thursday 19 November 2009

With the official count at 427 attendees, the meeting was declared quorate

		Action
1	Chair's Welcome Jonathan Lickiss, Union Council Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting	
2	Welcome Speech Robert Wilson, President, gave an introduction to the student movement. Robert explained the budgets to be approved later in the meeting show a strong financial performance in challenging times. However, the increase in demand and decrease in staff costs is not sustainable and students will need to make strong decisions within this meeting Nominations are open for the by-election and will close on 4 December. Positions available are BME Officer, Disabled Students' Officer, Mature Students' Officer, Non-Portfolio Officer, Part Time Students' Officer, Postgraduate Students' Officer and Students with Dependents' Officer plus six NUS Conference delegate positions. More information and nomination forms can be requested from Dez Cutchey, Vice President Communications, or found at www.cusu.org Robert gave an update on the new venue and bar. A referendum last year gave a very strong yes vote to the SU running the venue and bar itself. A proposal was worked on for four months, the broad principals of which have been accepted by the Vice Chancellor. Thanks were passed to the Vice Chancellor for attending the meeting to answer questions, it is a sign of a strong relationship with the students and acknowledges how important they are	
3	Minutes from 2008/09 Meeting - 27 November 2008 There were no questions or inaccuracies on the Minutes from last year's annual meeting. A vote was held on approving the Minutes, which passed by a majority	Passed
4	Approval of Accounts Robert Wilson reported on the income/expenditure report as at the end of July 2009. The balance sheet for the reserves was also highlighted, which should include six months operating costs for emergency situations. The current reserves are slightly short of this target. There were no questions on the accounts. A vote was held on approving the accounts, which passed by a majority	Passed
5	Questions to the Vice Chancellor Jonathan Lickiss welcomed Madeleine Atkins, Vice Chancellor, to the meeting. The Vice Chancellor gave a speech, passed on congratulations for the turn-out and thanked the SU for the invitation to the meeting. Questions were asked by Sabbatical Officers on behalf of the students who submitted them Q1) Can you update me and the other students on the Student Enterprise Building? Can you explain why the building was originally advertised to be open in autumn 2010 and has now moved to 2011? Can you tell me when the SEB will be opened as I have heard rumours it has been delayed a further 12 months till 2012? A) The early ground works are ongoing but whilst the foundations were being dug out,	

	<p>unknown cables were found, which need to be investigated. This section of work will be completed by the end of December 2009. There has been a delay to the building due to the cost of construction and materials falling. The University has taken advantage of this and changed the way it purchased the building and construction, so a new tendering process was started. The building will be ready no later than Easter 2011</p> <p>Q2) Student Loans Company have experience extreme problems this year and this has affect students across the country. Last Monday over 1,000 students were excluded is this true? What percentage of these were students awaiting their student loans? Have Coventry University extending any courtesy to those students caught up in this fiasco? A) NUS and many Vice Chancellors are putting pressure on the Student Loans Company (SLC). It's true that 1,000 students were blocked but not excluded for non-payment of fees. This number does not include anyone with an application being processed by the SLC. If there is evidence to the contrary for any student, please pass this on. The University is keeping in touch with the SLC about the timeframe for clearing the backlog. Fees are arriving every day to the University but it's a very complex situation</p> <p>Q3) With the review on tuition fees launched earlier this month, where do you stand on the subject? Should they stay the same, be increased or decreased? A) This is a big issue. The Government has launched a cross-party review of tuition fees and maintenance arrangements. The Vice Chancellor believes maintenance such as grant, bursaries and loans are more important, even though the fees debate grabs the headlines. If the fees increase, it will probably become £5,000 but may be more. The student support system needs to be improved</p> <p>Q4) What is the development plan for the current sports centre? Can you answer the following sub questions; are there plans to increase it? Will it be for students only? What else will it offer? When will it be done? A) The sports centre is currently running at capacity. There is a plan to build another wing to the centre on the current car park. This would enable classrooms to be built between the two wings and bring physiotherapy to the ground floor. Designs are currently being developed but held back as the scale of Government HE cuts are not yet known. Students make up 92% of users in the sports centre and this will not change. Any excess capacity can be used externally to create income</p> <p>Q5) The IT in the University regularly experience difficulties with service interruptions and essential routine maintenance. How is the network being improved? What is the strategy for IT in the short term and long term? Will we move to wireless? Will there be more P.C.'s with higher specification? A) The Vice Chancellor has spoken to IT Services about the wi-fi services around campus. Power hungry applications will need to remain wired for the higher specifications but the locations of these will be looked at. The University is moving towards more informal learning spaces with a mixture of wired and wireless services available. A review will take place to find out how well this covers the needs of students. The Vice Chancellor apologised for the connection failures and explained she shares students' frustrations</p> <p>Thanks were passed the Vice Chancellor for her time</p>	
6	<p>Motions Jonathan Lickiss explained what Motions are for and how they work. Jonathan also explained how speeches are made and the order of discussion before a vote is held</p> <p>1: All Lectures Cancelled on Varsity Day Steve McCarthy, Vice President Student Activities, spoke in favour of the Motion. Last</p>	

year 800 tickets were sold for Varsity Day, which is a significant number. High numbers of students both compete and spectate. Steve and Becky Hill, Vice President Academic Affairs, would work together on negotiating cancelling lectures with the University

Charlotte Brazier, BES Faculty Chair, spoke against the Motion. Too many courses rely on external people coming in to teach. Timetables are already full and perhaps Varsity could be held on a weekend or bank holiday

Lee Hooper, Football Club President, spoke in favour of the Motion. Varsity Day is a massive event and very important to sports. A large crowd in attendance is an added incentive to perform well. The support offered is encouraging and many ex-students return to the event

Robert Wilson spoke against the Motion. Sports and Societies are important but given the likely increase in fees, students will be demanding extra contact time. Academic issues affect all students whereas sports and societies affect just a few

Questions

Charlotte Stephens, Societies Councillor, asked if it would be possible to move the event to a weekend or bank holiday

Steve McCarthy replied that this event is run in conjunction with Warwick University. Many sports fixtures are on a Wednesday, so this carries on the tradition of a 'sports day'

A student asked how many students get the benefit of this, as opposed to those who are here to learn

Steve McCarthy said that the SU is here to enhance the student experience, which is not all about learning

Neil Robinson, Law Society President, asked if sports were more important than students' futures and their academic studies

Steve McCarthy said Varsity Day was traditionally aimed at sports but he was aiming to get societies to participate this year as well

Steve McCarthy waived a summation and a vote was held on the Motion, which passed by a majority

Passed

2: Campaigns Budget

Liah Maccallam, Vice President Welfare, spoke in favour of the Motion. Campaigns are important for student representation and the rights of students. More resources are needed to improve publicity

There was no speech against the Motion

Questions

Nairmi Rowe, Source Radio, asked where the proposed £6,000 would be used
Liah Maccallam replied that it would be used on advertising, for example having banners outside the SU for every campaign to promote events. It would also be used on providing more information, trips and workshops

Liah Maccallam waived a summation and a vote was held on the Motion, which passed by a majority

Passed

3: Budget for Faculty Chairs

Joe Paxton, A&D School Chair, spoke in favour of the Motion. Student representation is a key area for the SU and the Faculty Chairs are at the head of this group. This Motion

would enable the Faculty Chairs to increase the student experience and start projects
There was no speech against the Motion and no questions. A vote was held on the Motion, which passed by a majority

Passed

4: Additional Member of Staff in Sports and Societies

Jonathan Lickiss ruled this Motion out of order, therefore it cannot be discussed. All staffing matters are dealt with by the Personnel, Training and Development Committee

Emergency Motion: Funding Model that Recognises Performance

Robert Wilson submitted an emergency Motion and spoke in favour of it. The Motion took a broader view of the funding model and where the SU could run more effectively. This would give more power to improve the current situation and negotiate a model which recognises performance. There is a Union wide issue on the increase of participation without increased funding

There was no speech against the Motion

Questions

Charlotte Stephens asked why diversity should be rewarded, shouldn't it be automatic
Robert Wilson clarified that this was part of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
There is a need to measure diversity to see how students engage within the Union. The reward would be for engaging all students

Adam Everitt asked what was the current model and how would it be improved
Robert Wilson explained that the block grant is a set size regardless of how many students are involved in the SU. There should be a relationship between funding and participation

Sarah Weatherill-Kitely asked how much funding would go directly to Sports and Societies

Robert Wilson replied that when the funding model is proposed, there would be a set budget for each department which would increase with participation

Stewart Blackmore asked about a fair measurement of splitting funding if it's difficult to measure involvement. Could a model be brought to the students to be voted upon
Robert Wilson said that some involvement is easy to measure but negotiation is needed with the University. The level of involvement is excellent and increases year on year. Robert needs the voice of the students to back this proposal. The Union as a whole is transparent and decisions can be viewed online including meeting Minutes

Robert Wilson waived a summation and a vote was held on the Motion, which passed by a considerable majority

Passed

5: A New Minibus for the Students' Union

Alex Wood, Cricket Club President, spoke in favour of the Motion. There are currently three minibuses plus the MPV, which is no longer suitable for student use as it's ten years old and only has seven seats. Many clubs play on a Wednesday and go off site. If the SU vehicles are booked out, it costs £123 for hire of external minibus. This money could be used towards a new minibus, which would be paid for within four or five years. Many clubs also play at weekends and as the numbers of students within sports and societies increases each year, there is high demand for transport

Robert Wilson spoke against the Motion. The SU invested £20,000 in two minibuses last year. There was also a Motion passed at last year's all student meeting to increase the sports and societies development bid. There has been lots of investment in this area and there may be other solutions such as co-ordinating venues for matches and

hiring coaches instead

Steve McCarthy spoke in favour of the Motion. Many students are using their cars to travel and an additional minibus would remove the use of three or four cars per club. There is a need to use any surplus funds for students. There has been an increase in sports and societies members again this year and this Motion will help the student experience and participation

Robert Wilson spoke against the Motion and reiterated that the surplus needs to be spent on registering as a charity. The SU also does not currently hold six months operating costs, which is an issue. There are cuts due within HE of 15% to 20%, which will affect the SU. Money was also spent on minibuses last year. There is more to the SU than sports and societies. The SU cannot afford to pass this Motion, the funds are simply not available

Questions

Jamie Bradley asked what registering as a charity achieve

Robert Wilson replied that this has previously been put forward to students and agreed. The costs include moving the pension scheme across. Becoming a charity is also a legal requirement for Students' Unions

Alex Wood said that no members of his society own cars and what could they do
Robert Wilson reiterated that there aren't currently the funds for this change and he needs time to put together a new funding model to negotiate improvements

Steve Edwards, Environmental and Ethical Officer, asked if this Motion did pass, which part of the Union would the funds be taken from
Alex Wood replied that he didn't know enough about the Union accounts to answer that question but he believed the Union would be saving money long-term

Dan Larner asked if the University receives money from BUCS points
Robert Wilson said no but being involved in BUCS encourages students to attend. It has no effect on funding

Sarah Weatherill-Kitely asked if a compromise could be to hold a charitable event to raise funds to buy a new minibus
Robert Wilson responded that it was a great idea and very important to take forward

Lee Hooper, Football Club President, asked if the MPV could be traded in for a new minibus
Robert Wilson replied that if anything is invested in transport, the MPV would be lost as a result due to the financial situation. Sports and Societies could be supported to fundraise towards the cost of a new vehicle

Dave Brewis asked if this Motion is passed, could the development bid money be used to fund a purchase
Robert Wilson replied that this would not be possible as the bids have already been approved this year

Alex Wood gave a summation and said there are more students involved in clubs so more transport is needed and a solution has to be found

A vote was held on the Motion, which failed by a majority

Failed

6: First Aid Training for Officials

Charlotte Stephens spoke in favour of the Motion. This is an important issue, which has

	<p>been raised by both the Societies Council and Sports Council. No first aid training is offered to officials and there is a duty of care towards students with regards to health and safety. There could be an opt-in to first aid training, which would benefit all students on an annual basis</p> <p>Robert Wilson spoke against the Motion. There is an issue with funding this Motion. Robert also confirmed that there are qualified first aiders in both SU buildings, at Westwood Heath and the Sports Centre</p> <p>Stewart Blackmore spoke in favour of the Motion. There is a St John Links society within the Union that provide training. The society is currently offering a special rate and half the fee is put back into the Union. Twelve members of Union Council are being trained in December and Stewart believes this Motion will improve both the Union and societies</p> <p>Robert Wilson spoke against the Motion. The Motion refers to support from the Sports and Societies office, which has previously been mentioned as stretched at the moment. This would be an added burden</p> <p><u>Questions</u> Hannah Clements asked who are the trained first aiders at Westwood Robert Wilson clarified this information</p> <p>Sarah Weatherill-Kitely asked if one member of a club was trained, would they help other members with trips and events. Also, these skills can be taken away at the end of University and would there be another way to get sports and societies involved or organised Robert Wilson confirmed that the wording of the Motion can't be changed during the meeting</p> <p>Charlotte Stephens gave a summation and said many members of sports and societies do not have these skills and meet off-site. The Motion is about being proactive not reactive, which would limit accidents and protect students</p> <p>A vote was held on the Motion, which passed by a majority</p> <p>Robert Wilson reported that due to the above agreed changes, the budget needs to be re-approved. An amendment is needed to approve a £28,000 deficit budget. A vote was held, which passed by a majority</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Passed</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Committee Elections Elections were held for student places on the following Committees:</p> <p><u>Commercial Services (3 places)</u> Steve Edwards Ana-Maria Cotofan Richard Semtumbi</p> <p><u>Communications (2 places)</u> Aneesh Kalra Nairmi Rowe</p> <p><u>Education (2 places)</u> Steve Edwards Samantha Craighill</p>	

	<p><u>Elections (2 places)</u> Neil Robinson</p> <p><u>Equality and Diversity (2 places)</u> Alexandru Groze Theresia Matope</p> <p><u>Volunteering (2 places)</u> Stewart Blackmore Sarah James</p> <p><u>Welfare (4 places)</u> Oana Olariu Anthony Akuoko Alexander Pilgrim Joe Paxton</p>	
8	<p>Reports and Questions to Officers There were no reports but questions were asked by various students to the Sabbatical team on issues such as finance, cost of food on campus and room bookings. It was noted that the Sabbatical Officers can be emailed or spoken to directly in their office on the top floor of Priory Street SU</p>	Noted
9	<p>Any Other Business i - Robert Wilson thanked the Chair, Jonathan Lickiss, for his skills and for keeping the agenda to time</p>	
10	<p>Closing Remarks and Announcements from the Chair Jonathan Lickiss thanked the students for their attendance and highlighted that all students can get involved in Union Council and attend the meetings. Thanks were passed to Dez Cutchey for the organisation of the meeting and to the Executive Committee for getting involved</p>	