

# Leeds University Union

## Union Council Minutes

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008

**Location:** ARC Meeting Room 3

**Present:** Harry Aslam, Barry McGuire, Joshua Jones, Aiysha Ahmed, Abdulrahman Alhadithi (AAI), Laura Conrad, Guy Mitchell, Alia Mahdi, Sophia James, Alex Hunter, Madeline Harris-Smith, Andrew Greer, Neil Mackenzie, Sara Gill, Susan Nash, Hind Hassan, Lizzie Fellows.

**In attendance:** Leslie Dixon, Maryam Ahmed, Suzy Tobias, Jessica Parker, Danny Adilypour, Emily Spurrell.

**Minute taker:** Clare Hartley

**Reference:** UC/0708/12

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### 1. **Apologies for absence**

Chawotu Anyanwu, Kudzai Shava, Noam Harris, Ben Angell, Joel Harrison, Mai Ali.

The meeting was not quorate. It was decided that the first five items of business would be discussed as they do not need quoracy to be ratified.

### 2. **Minutes of the previous Union Council meeting for ratification as a true and accurate record of that meeting**

#### 2.1 **Ordinary Union Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

**9.3 Union Council Review:** Aiysha Ahmed noted that she was part of the Union Council Review working group, which has not been included in the minutes. Laura Conrad confirmed that she is not part of the group.

#### **Action:**

- **Minutes to be amended to remove Laura Conrad and insert Aiysha Ahmed.**

**Ratified**

### 3. **Matters arising out of these minutes**

None

### 4. **Minutes of the meetings of the sub-committees of Union Council**

#### 4.1 **Executive Committee held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

Ratified

#### 4.2 **Executive Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

Ratified

## 5. Executive Question Time

### 5.1 Executive work update report

Each member of the executive presented a short work update.

HH – Apologised for her update not being included in the paper with the other officers. She gave a quick update on what she has been working on:

- Fees campaign
- Student Support Network
- NUS Black Student Campaign
- Pregnancy Policy.

NM noted that LUU has been short listed for two NUS Awards: The Higher Education Students' Union of the Year and the Equality & Diversity award.

NM clarified the student representation on the Fairtrade Steering Group as one Executive Officer and the Ethical and Environmental Assembly Chair.

LC asked HH to clarify the pregnancy policy. HH noted that it is being led by Equality Services and is currently in draft form. The aim is to formalise the rights of students who are pregnant and / or have young children, and what they can expect whilst at University. The draft is posted on the student parent movement website and can be forwarded to anyone who would like to read it.

A discussion followed about the proposed democratic dates. NM and Clare Hartley introduced the proposed dates and highlighted the major changes from this academic year. It was noted that some of the dates had changed from the paper submitted to Union Council in advance of the meeting:

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, inclusion of an informal debate about what kind of motions should go to referenda.
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November (changed from the 24<sup>th</sup> November), Student Executive nominations open.
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, inclusion of “Meet the Officer Week”.
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January (changed from the 19<sup>th</sup> December), Student Executive nominations close.
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April (changed from the 24<sup>th</sup> April), Union Council nominations Close.
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April, Union Council Polls.
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, Union Council count.

The Chair called a short break while waiting for Union Council to reach quoracy.

Susan Nash entered the meeting.

Madeline Harris-Smith entered the meeting.

The meeting reached quoracy.

**6. Business referred by Assemblies**

**6.1 Body Beautiful Motion**

MH-S introduced the motion and gave a proposition speech.

There was no opposition speech.

As there was no opposition to the motion, the chair moved straight to a vote.

**Vote on motion 6.1**

For	Against	Abstain
AA, AAI, LC, LF, SG, AG, MH-S, HH, AH, BMG, SJ, JJ, NM, AM, GM, SN		

**PASSED**

**6.2 Union Council attendance review**

The chair reviewed the number of meetings Councillors have attended this session. No one has missed three meetings without apologies.

**7. Business referred by the Student Executive**

**7.1 Assembly Delegates at National Conferences**

SN noted this motion was referred from the last meeting and gave a short proposition speech for the motion. SN noted that it is not in the usual motion format.

There was no speech against the motion.

SJ proposed that “unless already sitting on that committee” be added.

A short debate followed about the possibility of having a women only vote for delegates to the NUS Women’s Conference, as specified in the NUS bye-laws. It was decided that it should be a priority to ask for exemption of this from the NUS.

NM noted that if this passes it will require a bye-law change, but that can be included in the bye-law “clean up” that will take place over the summer.

### Vote on motion 7.1

For	Against	Abstain
AA, AAI, LC, LF, SG, AG, MH-S, HH, AH, BMG, SJ, JJ, NM, AM, GM, SN		

**PASSED**

### 7.2 Proposed Democratic Dates 2008/09

The Chair noted that there had already been a discussion about the dates and opened up the floor for questions.

Further discussion about holding NUS elections at the start of the year followed. It was noted that it may exclude 1<sup>st</sup> year students from standing for NUS, however it was also noted that Union Council 1<sup>st</sup> year reps will be elected at the same time, which is a position that is frequently filled.

**SJ proposed a procedural motion to move straight to a vote.**

**PASSED**

### Vote to accept proposed dates for 2008/09

For	Against	Abstain
AA, LC, LF, SG, AG, MH-S, AH, BMG, SJ, JJ, NM,, SN	AAI, HH, AM	GM

**PASSED**

### 7.3 Student Parent Motion

HH introduced the motion and gave a proposition speech.

AH noted that he should have been informed about this motion as it reflects something that he is working on as Mature and Part Time Assembly Chair and also with the NUS. HH noted that she was approached by Siobhan Gallagher and Saskia Middleton and asked to put forward this motion.

SN suggested that Suzy Tobias and Maryam Ahmed meet with AH before the summer to review the motion.

### Vote on motion 7.3

For	Against	Abstain
AA, LC, LF, SG, AG, MH-S, AH, BMG, SJ, JJ, NM,, SN	AAI, HH, AM	GM

**PASSED**

#### 7.4 Councillor profiles

All councillors were reminded that they need to submit their profile to Carys Jones. So far she has only had four.

### 8. Business referred by other Members

#### 8.1 Communication of Policies and Boycotts

GM introduced the motion. He noted that most of what it ask for was passed at referendum.

There was no speech against the motion.

A discussion followed and it was noted that downstairs in the LUU building is about drinking and buying things in the shop, there is very little information about how LUU works and who the Exec and UC are. NM noted that the Info point was full of information about how LUU works. It was agreed that more was needed to promote the outcomes of referenda, policy and boycotts.

#### Vote on motion 8.1

For	Against	Abstain
AA, AAI, LC, LF, SG, AG, MH-S, HH, AH, BMG, SJ, AM, JJ, NM, GM, SN		

**PASSED**

### 9. Reports and declarations to Union Council

None

### 10. Any other business.

#### 10.1 "Caution Homophobe: Keep Clear!"

SJ tabled the motion and gave a proposition speech. Key points raised were:

- Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia are extremely damaging and upsetting forms of abuse, known to negatively influence self esteem, educational attainment, self harm and suicide. (Stonewall)
- LGB individuals in team sports are 22% more likely to be bullied as a result of their sexuality. (Stonewall, The School report 2007)
- Sports clubs at LUU are known to engage in a culture of homophobia.
- Leeds University Union should be a safe space for all its members, free from prejudice.
- No forms of maltreatment, homophobic or otherwise, should ever be tolerated!
- The campaign will launch in intro week, with a number of stunts.

- There will also be a strong presence during varsity week.
- It mandated the exec to be involved in the campaign and ensures that there is a complaints system in place in the ARC should any one suffer any form of homophobic, biphobic or transphobic abuse.

There was no speech against this motion.

A brief discussion followed and SJ noted that she is hoping to work with the Black and Asian Students assembly chair to develop the campaign further.

**Vote on motion 10.1**

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
AA, AAI, LC, LF, SG, AG, MH-S, HH, AH, BMG, SJ, AM, JJ, NM, GM, SN		

**PASSED**

**10.2 Working During Exec term of office.**

SG noted that she has been offered the chance to work at the Download music festival. This will take place over a weekend but will be during her term of office as Community Officer, as such she needs Union Council's permission to accept the work.

**Vote to allow SG to work at the Download festival**

**PASSED**

**10.3 Other points of AOB raised:**

- AAI noted that he was elected onto the NUS black students committee.
- JJ noted that assembly chairs need to meet with Carys Jones to discuss their plans for intro week.
- The Chair thanked the Student Executive for their work over the last year.

**11. Date and time of next meeting.**

To be confirmed.