



## RVCSU Council Meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Agenda Point	Action	By Whom	Date Action	Date completed
Accommodation	Trustee meeting to discuss rent strikes	Quentin		
Varsity/AVS	Beth to speak to Jaq Taffinder	Jac and Beth		
Events Policy	Specific changes – wording to change to RVC Hub on FB, set a clear date of when we will review the policy (in the NY 11 <sup>th</sup> January), change the wording to say this policy is in place while College restrictions are in place	SU President and VP team		
#1 SU	No.1 Student's Union in the World according to a barometer - Create graphics and shout about it to the college - Add SU to RVC #1 from 2 years ago	Jack and Fuchsia		
Entertaining our isolated students	Create a working group to discuss Support for quarantining students	Ellie & Quentin		

### 1. Welcome & Apologies:

*Attending: Quentin President, Georgia Buck (VP Rep Comms), Dave Sherlock-Jones General Manager, Willow Gibson, Fuchsia Stocker, Victoria Lindsay and Gareth Jones (SU Postgraduate Officers); Stephanie Rae Flicker, Ellie Bayne (Welfare), Seb Miller and Pam Khera, (Ents), Jac Taffinder (VP Activities), Jess Tang (International), Jade Urquhart Gilmore, Liv Craddock (E&D), Sam Fenton (SU Treasurer), Celeste, Liv Nicolas (Environmental) Legend Thurman (SU SAVMA); Emma Thomas (vet nurse liaison officer), Jack Conway (SU Media Manager), Danielle Golds, Simone Heaney, Genevieve Tibbett, Olivia Nicholas (SU Environment), Chantelle Woodward-Iles, Dani Gold, Hasita Dodhia, Jack Conway, Jade UG, Kate S, Matty Clarkson, Priya, Victoria Mercier*

### 2. Minutes from last meeting

### 3. RVCSU Environmental Policy – ON

Poll – all Officers, Members of council and course reps can vote  
Yes – passed



**4. Hedgehog Friendly Campus – Liv**

- Get students and staff more involved
- Completely free for the SU/College
- Can be done in more urban area's as well (as per NUS website). The SAWC put ramps in for hedgehogs, as a requirement
- Students comment that it's a good idea

**Poll – all Officers, Members of council and course reps can vote**

Yes – passed

**5. RETG update – QW - Update for Council on the progress and plans of the RETG**

- Made up of staff and AA members
- Task force and goal is to produce a report
- Dan Chan to send out report of what has been done so far
- Dave asked what is the target – can't see any actions coming out. Main aim is to find out the state of affairs, what type of equity is at the college, recommendations will be made from there
- Steph Flicker asked - Has there been a discussion about the longevity of the RETG ? Where we go from here and in the future. Hope to have a follow up group and SU should have input and note for the handover (legacy)
- RCVS – has a plan but it only goes to July
- Have we communicate with students? Have they been updated along the way? Dan sends out emails after the meetings. Q suggested a termly update from him, if appropriate
- Will next years E&D and President be invited to the meetings? Q will ask the group
- Georgia – thinking about handover – can they start attending meetings sooner than they are in post? Easier now that they are all online meetings
- Ellie (welfare) – asked if there is anything we can do now, rather than wait until July? Liv (E&D) – anything that needed to happen from out side was added to SU action plan. Spoke to college staff about student experience out on placements.

**6. Return to play for our sports clubs – QW and JT**

- Jac and Georgia are speaking with the college
- Main concern for college is that staff and students are safe and financially viable, educating the final years in particular. Open up sport (gradually) once final years have had OSCEs. Very gradual process, one step at a time
- Jac – pushing for levels of sport, similar to the Govt, start with outdoor, socially distance sport (eg tennis etc).
- Captains meeting to be held Thursday evening – Town Hall meeting to get the socs/clubs on side
- College wants to keep each campus separate



- Victoria – feels the college will be stricter than the government and she’s worried the students will be very disappointed
- Q said this has been through the principles advisory group and they are starting to look more possible towards this.
- Will need to manage expectations – clubs may start to train outside of the college
- Dave - SU can’t keep saying the college is saying ‘no’. We need to be singing from the sage hymn sheets. We need to manage expectations with sport and freshers as well
- Gareth – agrees that we need to be very careful and be very cautious. Advise we are reviewing policies and have a plan in place.
- Steph – agrees with Gareth. Look at students on campus and those who aren’t on campus.
- Georgia – need to consider cohorts who aren’t on campus
- Victoria Mercer – can all teams train outdoors as well (indoor sport teams as well)?
- Q – advised this will be our approach – we would try to include lots of different sports
- Vicky – idea of how to look at encouraging small groups to get out and exercise? Q – advised this is the approach will be taking
- Dave – asked Jac if we can work with the SAWC to get people to get outside, instead of the SU bringing back the sports/socs.

#### 7. Colours and sport/society of the year – JT

- Sending out colours
- Sports ball – soc of the year – Jac will run and have noms as usual
- Sports team of the year – to be changed to sports club of the year
- Jade – colours from last year – Jac is going through the 165 and posting or handing out to students on campus
- Award for spirit of the RVC – above and beyond – would like to expand to people who have gone above and beyond with Covid – maybe expand to 5 years? Lots of good candidate that could be considered
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May – Virtual Varsity
- Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm Captains meeting (agenda will be sent out Wed morning) – Dave wants to reiterate the point of ‘managing expectations’ (Clashes with ‘reclaim the streets’ meeting). Captains meeting invite went out first

#### 8. RVC Lockdown hero – JT

9. **OfS survey – AVS** - AVS officers have been approached by RVC Widening Participation asking them to complete an OfS survey about WP for incoming students. Here is a link to the kind of answer they would like: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/c18a413b-4e2a-456a-ad19-408b2f68181f/student-submission-questions.pdf>
- **Adam Robins** – him and Laura, Beth Hall were approached by RVC widening participation (WP), survey about how students view WP.
  - **Dave** - SU don’t have a WP policy (not had much exposure). We now have AA under the SU, up to the student officers to agree



- **Ellie** - SU E&D action plan, once the students are within the college (all students have an equal opportunity). SU supports the college WP
- **Liv (E&D)** mentioned that we are working with RETG as well
- **Q asked Adam** to forward info on how the SU can do things better
- College have their own outreach team

#### 10. AOB

- **Vicky - TQC** – committee from last week – discussing no detriment policies. Put things in place for failed exams and assessments this year. Students are more concerned that aren't achieving as well as they usually would, rather than passing or failing.
- Suggested that resits are offered to students who passed but did not get the mark that had hoped for. Waiting to hear if it will be approved.
- Discussed practically for finalists (Bio, Vet etc)
- **Ellie – Welfare** – has been working on personal safety and would like it to be put on the website asap and before the other info she has been working on
- **Sam** – asked if any uptake on SU Emerg loan – no takers as of yet
- **Thank you email received from** Roger Bright, chair of the College's Finance & General Purposes Committee thanking the SU for their 'hard work and commitment in managing the SU's finances so skilfully over the past difficult year'.

End of meeting 19:15

**Appendix 1 – RVCSU Environmental Policy Introduction** The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) Students' Union (RVCSU) aims to operate with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to benefit our local environment, including its biodiversity, through our actions. RVCSU will also strive to ensure that its actions are beneficial to the wider global environment, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. Background RVCSU recognises that its members have declared a global climate emergency. RVCSU has committed to becoming net zero in scopes 1 and 2 by 2030. RVCSU recognises its members are students drawn from the RVC and will also strive to ensure the RVC maintains its commitment to environmental sustainability. Scope of Policy This policy covers all members of RVCSU, as well as RVCSU staff, volunteers and trustees. The listed parties have a responsibility to acquaint themselves with this policy and follow its principles. Policy Statement The main aim of this policy is to ensure that sustainability is a priority for RVCSU. It will also hold RVCSU accountable to its net zero commitment. This policy is informed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). The UN SDGs are a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. 1. Scope 1 emissions include direct emission sources such as fossil fuel combustion for heat and fuel use from vehicles owned by the organisation. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions relating to purchased electricity, heat or steam only. Scope 3 emissions include wider indirect emissions from organisational activity not covered in Scopes 1 or 2. 2. There are seventeen interconnected SDGs, as follows: 1) No poverty; 2) Zero hunger; 3) Good health and wellbeing; 4) Quality education; 5) Gender equality; 6) Clean water and sanitation; 7) Affordable and clean energy; 7. Colours and sport/society of the year – JT - Jac to lead discussion 1845 - 1850 8. RVC Lockdown hero – JT - Jac to lead discussion 9. OfS survey – AVS - AVS officers have been approached by RVC Widening



## RVCSU COUNCIL

Minutes

via Zoom

18:00-19:00

Participation asking them to complete an OfS survey about WP for incoming students. Here is a link to the kind of answer they would like: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/c18a413b-4e2a-456a-ad19-408b2f68181f/student-submission-questions.pdf>

10. AOB 1850 - 1855 1855 - 1900

3 Roles & Responsibilities All members, staff, volunteers and trustees of RVCSU have a responsibility for the overall implementation of this policy. Day-to-day implementation of the policy will be the responsibility of the RVCSU Environment Officer, with support from the RVC's Environmental Sustainability Manager. Monitoring & Review The RVCSU will ensure that transparent annual sustainability reports are published online. The Environment Officer will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the policy at least once annually. The RVC's Environmental Sustainability Manager will be responsible for holding RVCSU to account over its environmental commitment, alongside an advisor on Council, such as an external trustee. Strategy As far as possible, subject to resources, financial limitations, and legal powers and duties of the charitable organisation, RVCSU will:

1. Campaigns and Activities
  - 1.1 Define its net zero target, set checkpoints in time to ensure the organisation is on track, and finally meet our target of net zero before the set deadline of 2030.
  - 1.2 Campaign to ensure the RVC are doing the same, as well as striving to lower their net zero deadline.
  - 1.3 Embed sustainability within all organisational activities.
  - 1.4 Encourage its members and staff to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times.
  - 1.5 Continue to adhere to its paperless commitment, and encourage its members to do the same, especially during the annual election campaigns.
2. Directly Relating to Energy
  - 2.1 Strive to reduce its own energy usage in line with its net zero target.
  - 2.2 Support initiatives for community energy projects.
  - 2.3 Support energy reduction strategies within the university and student halls.
3. Climate Change and Biodiversity
  - 3.1 Consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues and will endeavour to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes.
  - 3.2 Work with the RVC to create biodiverse spaces on campus.
  - 3.3 Support local initiatives aimed at climate change and/or biodiversity protection or enhancement.
  - 3.4 Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.

8) Decent work and economic growth; 9) Industry, innovation and infrastructure; 10) Reduced inequalities; 11) Sustainable cities and communities; 12) Responsible consumption and production; 13) Climate action; 14) Life below water; 15) Life on land; 16) Peace, justice and strong institutions; 17) Partnership for the goals. For more information, visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

4. Relating to the Student Experience
  - 4.1 Ensure wherever possible safe walking and cycling routes are available for students to travel to and from both campuses.
  - 4.2 Empower students to make their own contributions to environmental sustainability.
  - 4.3 Work to reduce waste and plastic usage at SU events e.g., by requesting that stalls at Fresher's Fair do not hand out plastic bags or bottles.
  - 4.4 Ensure all RVCSU-branded merchandise is produced with a purpose in mind, made from the most sustainable materials available, and that excess products are disposed of in an appropriate manner e.g., by donating excess t-shirts to charity or for textiles recycling.
5. Relating to Third Party Suppliers
  - 5.1 Consider the impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment.
  - 5.2 Seek to only use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is continually reviewed, updated and measured against recognised, best practice.
  - 5.3 Support local businesses, particularly those providing local employment and services.
6. Relating to Waste and Waste Management
  - 6.1 Work with the RVC to further reduce single-use waste on campus.
  - 6.2 Work with the RVC to improve waste management facilities.
  - 6.3 Work with the RVC to improve recycling facilities both in on campus and in student halls, and make it clear what can and cannot be recycled.
  - 6.4 Improve the availability of recycling facilities for hard-to-recycle materials.
7. Embedding Sustainability in the Curriculum
  - 7.1 Advocate for subject-specific sustainability teaching to be embedded in the curriculum across all degree

RVCSU

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Minutes

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programmes. 7.2 Work with the RVC to ensure that sustainability teaching is implemented in a way that is relevant and clear to the students, and that this is regularly reviewed. 8. Improving Sustainable Travel 8.1 Encourage its staff and members to use the most sustainable travel methods available to them e.g., by highlighting their benefits to physical, mental, environmental and economic wellbeing. 8.2 Campaign for improvement of local cycle paths and walking routes. 8.3 Campaign for continued improvements to the Hawkshead shuttle bus service based on staff and student feedback. 8.4 Aim to reduce the carbon emissions of the RVCSU minibuses by reducing the number of journeys where possible and transitioning away from fossil fuel vehicles and towards more sustainable options, such as electric or hydrogen, when the technology becomes available. 8.5 Advocate for staff and students to car-share where use of public transport is not possible. RVCSU recognises its unique position as a charity in being able to seek funding for projects which would otherwise be restricted to the College and will actively seek funding to support the sustainability initiatives on campus highlighted above. 5

**Appendix 2 – Hedgehog Friendly Campus** The Hedgehog Friendly Campus initiative is a national campaign for universities who want to protect these much-loved native animals. Launched jointly by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and the NUS, the initiative has three levels of accreditation - Bronze, Silver and Gold. Universities are in a unique position to help conserve our hedgehogs. Campuses cover large areas of often very suitable hedgehog habitat, and the things staff and students do with that habitat can make a big impact on local wildlife. As part of the initiative, students sign up to become Hedgehog Ambassadors for the uni, and in return they are given access to free resources, workshops and talks, as well as a free starter pack, certificate and reference for their CV. The campaign is aimed at staff as well as students, and there is no limit on the number of people who can get involved. From fundraising to blog writing, hedgehog surveys to wildflower planting, there's loads students can get involved in!