

1. Welcomes and Apologies SF

Apologies received from: Fuchsia Stocker (staff), Victoria Lindsay (Postgraduate officer), Willow Gibson (Staff)

Attendees: Jack Conway (Website), Tamas Berczik (SAVMA), Elizabeth Brooks (IVSA Junior), Gigi de Fort-Menares Lee (International), Hasita (VP Welfare), Sam (President), Danielle (VP RepComms), Eleanor Irvine (BioSci), Gareth (Postgrad), Anantha (E&D), Seb (Ents), Lewis (AVS Senior), Alex (Nurse), Ester (Environment), Dave (GM), Kathrine (RAG), Matty (VP Activities), Adam (IVSA Senior), Priya (VP Camden), Mei Neoh (WAH Course Rep), Chantelle (VP Treasurer)

2. To vote: confirm the minutes of previous meeting SF (Paper 1 - separate document)

VOTE: 10 Yes, 6 Abstain

3. To vote: SU Associate Membership and Bye-law changes MC (Paper 2)

- MC – how the union deals with alumni with insurance and intercollegiate members are part of the union and clubs and societies – talked to peter baron on how to address alumni membership and intercollegiate membership – proposed addition to byelaws – council can create associate membership and this is proposed with fee, comes with a opt in and fee covers entering into insurance and administrative fee – get full membership but would have some things they cannot do (vote, hold office etc) – Peter baron suggests not putting in major restrictions. Best way to do it would be to add into byelaws to what this would entail
- In proposed edition – associate members will still be allowed to hold office in clubs and societies – constitution issues and suggested not to be addressed by Peter Baron. MC opinion no restrictions holding office in clubs and socs. Trustee side no financial implication to those groups on being on committee on within the RVCSU with how budgeting works. Proposed fee £10 for admin fees and insurance
- VOTE: 16 Yes for amendments
- VOTE: 16 Yes for fee proposed

4. To discuss: Postgraduate budget GJ VL (Paper 3)

- Postgrads feel left out in funding, £500 not enough, tried hard to do as much as can free of charge. Propose rebalance of funding for post graduate students. Would like council to agree on funding readdress – postgrad previously underfunded / unrequested. – postgrads need show that a change is there. – DSJ states funding is unrequested not underfunded.
- CW – most years money doesn't get used to give officers budget, not chronically underfunded but postgrads are proactive and council should be reactive to that. Something that can be worked with. – GJ thinks challenge is with that model strategic planning is hard to do and allows future officers to have protective budgets such as welfare. – DSJ – Welfare budget protected another way – GJ- ballpark figure between £2000 and £5000 to do prospective planning and allow MSC and Postgrads to interact.
- DSJ – £10000 allocated for officer campaigns, would like a plan/budget for the year – GJ – agree to amount to know how much needed. Get other offices involved such as Seb (ents) – DSJ and CW to meet with GJ to cost out the plan properly – budget needs to split fairly. GJ – funding to SU is undergraduate bias. – CW – freshers doesn't exclude postgrads and running purely postgrad events would be unfair, mentioned MSA society to get involved with them.
- SF – agree, doesn't come to assigning GJ and VL as officers a budget as per say. Ideas from GJ and VL needed. – SF question budget in regard to restricted funds. – DSJ - £10000 to officer campaigns, £500 to every officer that has a campaigning portfolio and if needed more they come to council and ask for more. £3000 is allocated to VN and Bsc grad ball – unrealized bias – HD agrees – DSJ – postgrad inductions move
- HD – Haxby event for postgrads – summary of finances and then more concrete proposal? GSJ – data available but awkward due to how college classifies years/courses. £120 spent in Haxby roughly 45 attendees
- MC – owe to postgrad students instead of talking about budget – budget approved next week at AGM needs to happen within the next 5 days, cant change budgets with no data vs bringing up at council next term – council does not work fast enough for budgets to be approved within 5 days. – GJ – carry forward money from last year so shouldn't be a major financial risk to the union, intended overspend.
- SF – table and move on

5. To discuss: E&D action plan HD AK VL (Paper 4)

- HD – E&D action plan not changed since 2016, HD, AK and VL gone through and suggested changes. Point for discussion Point 2 – In talks of E&D training for 1 committee member of clubs and socs and to discuss to see what's feasible (like for first aid training) – help be an upstander and not a bystander
- MC – would require budgeting implications and planning but would be beneficial and an opt in service but can get lots of clubs onboard. Good idea to offer to clubs and socs at start of year and MC would be happy to schedule that. Address – taken from universities, should revamp to make it less involved with the university
- HD – issues with communication with college, unsure on how authorization would work. ED committee is a staff committee which ED and Welfare are invited to. Very challenging to get word in about students and very staff focused. All of college to do list to do with staff, would like to make it more student focused.
- Mei Shan Neoh – would we be open to opening up training sessions to course reps? – HD – will add all course reps – MC – be mindful of with course reps, not elected until late October – DSJ - How do you get first year course reps – would have to do double the work etc.
- GJ – Don't technically stop being a course rep until December, should get in contact with Michelle Milner on staff members not being engaging.
- SF – course reps, might be worth reminding that course rep runs until December the following year, 4-5 month transition period that course reps disappear. Course rep retainment.
- DG – talked with Maxine Bailey on course rep training next week – cannot change this time but in future. Should email Maxine Bailey
- MC – document reporting to college which college want. RVCSU action plan does not have to be this department form. More than welcome to work with college but should maintain some separation. Just not include the college

6. To discuss: Equality Diversity Inclusion Policy DSJ SF HD AK

- SF - Beneficial to report to college but no obligation to actually do it. (join last point) – need one for the SU
- DSJ – several policies but key one this one. HD, DSJ and AK need to sit down and look at this. Cant continue without direction and don't have to follow college, also have issues with ED college member. Need to come up with something more progressive than the college.
- HD – Discussing priority points from RETG suggestions that Donald Palmer wrote up. Quite a few point that are very specific about students, take what is in action plan that HD, VL and AK have just done and incorporate more progressive items. Make accessible for people to read.
- DSJ – needs to be clear, reasonably short and actionable so can be acted on, AK agrees. HD – BVetMed centric, needs to be other courses included. Want to sit down with HD, AK, GJ and VL and Charlotte Lawson (open to anyone) – has to be time sensitive and move it forward quickly.

7. To discuss: Marking of SplD HD KS

- HD - BSc and Msci not being fairly marked due to learning disabilities
- KS – Specific learning differences – (Dyslexic etc) – need official diagnosis to meet special requirements to get exam help. College only give extra time which with Bsc doesn't help with long projects etc. Examiners not told student has specific learning difference – usually marked down due to grammar, spelling etc.
- HD – college take and give based on diagnosis, practical exams etc are not helped. KS – college board have criteria that university have to meet. No specific guidelines on students with SplD, very vague. Suggest to take to Steve Short and Kate Soloman (Advice Center and Disability Advisor Advice Centre) – HD – suggest going to ED committee
- GJ – agree – best path to take to raise at LTAQC (committee), best to have a meeting outside as well to be addressed at college committee, also to be raised as blended learning working group, also VN effected. KS in contact with a tutor who is willing to make a statement
- SF – issues with anonymized statements – need to be anonymous

8. To discuss: RVC Blended Learning Strategy GJ VL (Paper 5 - separate document)

- GJ – issue from last year, issues with blended learning – had meetings with key stakeholders (inc Michelle Milner etc) had good constructive discussions and have got changes and promise from the college that they will include course reps in the discussion. Committed to some on site lectures etc. Need council to approve document with changes. SF also supportive (though cannot vote).

- SF – Blended learning associated with Pandemic but no other good name, damage on term already done.
- *VOTE on officially supporting from council: 17 Yes*
- 9. To discuss: Branding of RVCSU competitive teams MC**
- MC – specifically with UoL teams – any club with intercollegiate members have to compete as University of London even though we are adopting them due to how BUCS and LUSL work. Need discussion on whether they compete as a RVC named teams.
- LO – checking if its purely with competing and in terms of Snow Sports (UoL Snow) – would be relabeled as RVC snow sports in theory
- DSJ – asking if it continues over the next year when UoL doesn't exist – MC – UoL will continue funding for the next few years. – DSJ – need meeting with BUCS, understanding is UoL will cease to exist. – MC – if UoL stops paying for BUCS, clubs will not be able to compete unless byelaws are changed. – DSJ – taking money but not supplying support.
- GJ – negotiate with other officers of UoL universities, address with BUCS as a group.
- MC – very niche issue with niche clubs, probably wont work with other universities.
- SF – is there no provision with students that attends another university to compete with RVC – MC – no, would not be able to compete, has to be a student on a course – is there any provision in BUCS to compete as a joint team – MC – not addressed but potentially could have a joint team if it comes down to numbers, cant find in BUCS byelaws
- MC – provisional vote to how this year works to whether we are adopting UoL clubs next week at AGM
- SF – note: if voting against, excluding members of RVC team who are members of other universities to compete.
- *VOTE: Whether to vote to allow RVCSU clubs with intercollegiate members to compete as UoL to allow intercollegiate members to compete – Majority Yes (16 Yes)*
- 10. To discuss: Arrangements for Wednesday night socials/Zoo Bar SM**
- SM – Issues with Zoo bar, zoo bar treated us badly and have done for a while now. Going through company IloveStudentNights – zoo bar unreceptive to talking. Spoken to managers of IloveStudentNights who suggested another venue, could offer a similar deal to zoo bar previously. Sports and Societies not happy. Had trial run with Ilovestudentnights with Piano Works West End on Wednesday 20th – people enjoyed, no complaints. LSE priority to zoo bar.
- Agreement with Piano works – something comparable to old deal with Zoo bar (free pitchers, free entry) but need to discuss further. That night gave free pitcher to sports clubs presidents and social secs and free cloakroom, needs more negotiation.
- MC – Discussed at first presidents meeting with clubs and socs, need to consider presidents and social secs only look after themselves, nice benefit to those. Priority that all get free entry, cant prioritize free pitchers for social secs. – SM in agreement
- HD - When finding a venue, look at Brighton Students Union statement on Girls Night In (spiking), on what we expect on clubs and venues. Incorporate into on deciding on new venue, RVC predominantly female and regarding recent events.
- SF – Important to mention that when announce plans and negotiated. Make clear its discussed with club.
- EB – Pianoworks nicer in removing members in health and safety view than zoo bar
- DSJ – opinion to cut all ties with zoo bar due to poor treatment with students. Putting students at risk when throwing students out which is not appropriate.
- AR – nursing students far away, safety and free entry a major importance. – SM – Wants to prep info pack to help students get back.
- HD – London Nightline – help on getting home. – HD wanted to map out safe routes around HH and CM, maybe incorporate into safety back. Suggestion to partner with travel company for students who are stranded. – also when find new club, can we write contract of what we expect from the club from welfare/safety perspective
- KS – Girls Night In Statement? – In AOB
- EB – Taxi/Uber service – buttery has allocated account for stranded people, suggestion to do same? Emergency budget allocation – SM – find venue and inform bouncers but issues with people getting 'free taxis' could be abused.
- GL – alternative idea volunteer basis run by students who help get students back. Something similar like walk safe to Camden campus – SM suggests

- JC – access camden if nowhere else to go
- DSJ – maybe not promote but is viable
- SF – deal with ongoing in weekly catchup meetings – ACTION: SM liase with piano works and negotiate
- To go with Pianoworks Wednesdays until we can have an official arrangement with ILoveStudentNights

11. To note: Working with external relations JC

- Working with college departments don't be forced to give answers and to have agenda meeting and minutes recorded. If in doubt come back to council

12. AOB

a. Co-branding template with RVC and RVCSU DG

- Covered as above but apparently there is a template with the RVC and SU adhering with certain branding guidelines. Nobody in the SU aware of this. Taken the stance that this isn't happening and needs to be renegotiated. Make clear if anything unsure of to let us know in regard to this issue. No posts going out until renegotiated.

b. Responsibilities of RVCSU members and affiliated groups for external visitors' behaviour whilst on RVC campus SF

- Haxby incident – external student behaviour unacceptable and done damage to college property – reminder if bringing in visitors they are responsible and managing behaviour

c. Aberystwyth Vet Student integration with RVC and RVCSU LO

- Aberystwyth in first year and joining us in two years, AVS president keen in supporting the transition period between them at Wales and them coming to RVC, wondering if SU and RVC has plans. GJ has suggested talking to Steven Van Winden, came up at LTAC. – DSJ – talked to staff at length but might be worth doing a trip to Aberystwyth for a social of some sorts.
- GJ to bring up with Steven Van Winden

d. Student engagement and feeling isolated SF LO

- Comment from GAB student now third year that they are not very welcome at events and fresher's fair. We as a union need to work to make students feel welcome and engaged
- HD – potentially may have said in a group chat incorrect information, AR sent out email for feedback from nurses.
- GJ – worth non vet officers having a meeting, VL can help get out survey.
- SM – thinking about events and asked to let him know about event ideas and work with non vet officers and others for non club events
- GL – Organizing theatre event

e. Girls Night In DG HD

- Infographics forwarded by DSJ, need discussing – in talks about training about bystander training, short term solution while in discussion about other training. LinkedIn Learning Membership
- Brighton Students Union Statement:
https://www.instagram.com/p/CVPzrzYICV5/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
- Boycott action next Friday, some doing boycott tomorrow. Halloween event tomorrow but we're already publishing this action on the 5th, within our right to carry on with event tomorrow. If we stop it backfires, wanting people to be safe not discourage people going out.

f. Managing expectations MC

- Old constitution states rules for funded and unfunded clubs, new constitution doesn't, - could potentially add back into byelaws. MC decision only for clubs. Council decision does matter, informal vote at AGM next week.

Date and time of next meeting tbc