Student Council
Date: 13/12/2022
Time: 3:00-4:30 pm
Location: Student Union Meeting Room 1

1. **Introductions, Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

Present:

Welfare Officer	Natasha Layley (NL)
Development Officer	Temi Dosunmu (TD)
Democracy & Campaigns Officer	Dom Owen (DO)
Academic Representation Officer	Ayoola Johnson (AJ)
SAH Deputy Faculty Rep	Marija Solic (MS)
Student Council Chair	Andrzej Korczynski (AK)
HSS Faculty Rep	Anwar Jawula (AJa)

Apologies:

Learning Experience Officer	Jade Underwood (JU)

2. **Introductions**

   Faculty reps and student in attendance, New Student Council Chair Appointed

3. **Minutes and Actions from last meeting**

   Minutes from last meeting- **Approved**

4. **Updates from Elected officers**

   DO:

   <Housing campaign> Influence on local policy for HMO's so now 3-4 bed housing has to be registered. Licences are being strengthened- landlords that have been proven to be good get longer licences. Working with the council and University - housing task force, wrote recommendations based on survey. Created own survey- then

spoke to the full cabinet meeting which has been passed. Nationally led work in collaboration with Reading SU. Provided a submission for parliament website. Stephen Morgan has brought concerns to parliament.

<Cost of living> supports funding for extracurricular activities. Sitting on the board of governors. Lots of board of examiners & panels at the moment. Worked with the council on travel routes etc.

[AK] Does it matter if it is a private landlord or agency - does it apply to both?

[DO] Yes. We have some terrible agents in Portsmouth which is something I would like to work on, implementing regulation on estate agents. One thing I will do is create a local student housing association.

Updates approved

AJ:

<Peer learning system> piloted through different schools, trying to get level 5 and 6 students involved. This system is important as it promotes students being able to interact with each other without interaction of staff. Would also have a working group to see what issues may arise and see if this is possible to implement around other schools as well. Also conducting an awareness project to promote academic services that are already at the university. Use of faculty reps, course reps and academic societies. Feedback has been given by these societies in order to see how this can be promoted even more.

<Assessment and feedback> Asking about student experience around feedback, conducting surveys in order to have data on what the situation is around this, the goal is to see what university should be doing in order to see how assessment feedback can be included.

[AK] Was the peer learning system tested in specific schools?

[AJ] Yes. They have been piloted in pharmacy and other courses in order to see if this can be implemented successfully. We are also seeing what peer learning programmes already exist in certain faculties and seeing these can be combined. At the end of the year the piloting program will be assessed and the impact will be checked.

[AK] Sitting in one of the SVC's and lecturers are looking for spaces like this. Peer led learning sessions. Everyone seems to be on the same page but these aren't aligned yet.

[AJ] Yes we will expand in different faculties and try to implement it in a way that works with the faculty. Hopefully creating a more secure support structure in the courses.

Updates approved

NL: <Bystander training> Expanded to safety for students and locals as well. Working with police and council. Training of respect and how to intervene in situations, how to report and when you should. Making reporting less daunting- huge issue with things going under reported. Letting people know what is available to them. Creating a Wednesday night pop up safety tent. Working with sports to create a rota for sports clubs to offer support on a student night.

<Carbon footprint> promoting small changes that can be made e.g. bringing a water bottle in and getting this water bottle from a sustainable source. How cost effective this can be. Looking into ways of recycling vapes - see if there is a way to recycle them that is inexpensive.

<Removing barriers into extra curricular activities> Attended training around disabilities, staff training & having staff competent when it comes to this cohort of students. Looking at what is missing & creating what is compulsory for our staff to be doing to support our students.

[AK] Other universities had a system where they provided training on what to report on and what to say. Teaching what you are able to report and how to do it is also essential.

[NL] That's what I am looking into. Even if it is reporting that someone has approached them and made them uncomfortable. There are procedures in place that can stop people returning to an area if they have made people feel this way. Knowing what you can report and how it will be dealt with.

TD:

<Food on campus> Information on this has gone out to student ambassadors, course reps and student groups etc. We will be getting the data back around the end of the year so this will be updated once it has been collected.

Updates approved

5. **Updates to motions from HYS**

[AJ] Updates about: [Free Creative Cloud Access for Design Students](#)

[Letter from CCI Faculty](#)

CCI, approved petition. AJ contacted CCI posing some key questions to them about why they can't offer licences to creative cloud. Asking them questions around whether their positions regarding off campus licence is unchanged. Consequences to mitigating steps that can be done about reducing cost of student licence. Key responses about how getting access for off campus is not possible because adobe has changed its licensing structures. Impossible for the University to offer this

programme off campus. Conversations around accessibility of computers in Eldon Building. They've taken steps to increase opening times of spaces, in terms of price their current charge of £63 is meant to cost students £216. If the adobe licence wasn't through the University it would cost the students more. Maintaining the open suite in Eldon Building. They can't reduce cost for students. Staff have communicated this with students. EO's met Trevor executive for CCI - Hard to move forwards from here. My recommendation is that we send information out to students who have raised a petition & help them to understand the reality of the petition. Getting the action that they would like is practically impossible. Work on how to communicate this information with students such as potentially inviting them to the student council.

[DO] I think that there is something more that we can do based on the conversation with Trevor.

[AJ] It may be possible to target specific students, however the ones that this cost may particularly affect but it might be difficult to justify.

[DO] I have an idea. We have the support fund so we can use some of that money to get licences for the students most in need?

[TD] How much would it cost the University to cover the students? The money we have for the support fund wouldn't cover it.

[DO] We did receive an email from a student going through a lot, we could open this fund for students affected by this decision.

[NL] If we can identify students that are particularly vulnerable alongside the fact that they are not able to access what is already available to them that will be better.

[AJ] We need to find data for the students who are most likely to be affected- distance learners. **ACTION:** AJ to contact the university regarding gathering this data.

[NL] Would it not be more ideal for the university to pay?

[DO] Are you able to get the data AJ?

[AJ] I can look into what data is available for CCI. If there are not a lot of students that are particularly vulnerable then we will be able to do so but if there are many students this may not be as feasible.

[AJ] I want to make sure that the students are being updated on the discussions that are happening. **ACTION:** Website to be updated

[AK] Problem i can see developing is if we get the data for this cohort's students, would it change by next year?

[NL] We can look at trends from past years as well.

[AJ] Need to see how many students would benefit from the discounts?

[NL] Distance learners can't access this on campus. There is a free option for most students but not distance learners. Need to check the language and make sure people understand why this is subsidised for a particular.

6. **Campaigns and Policy Proposal**

[DO] What would you like to see us do next year?

[AJ] In terms of campaigning?

[DO] Yes.

[AJ] Concerns around the bus and coaches not reaching students that live in areas such as fratton and south sea further, no discounts are available for students either.

[NL] last year times were expanded to accommodate students that need to use the bus to travel due to sport etc

[DO] Has data of where students live from housing surveys

[NL] We can map it out to see the housing route

[AJ] If students can take other buses and get discounts it will help to mitigate issues. The Fratton area is disconnected.

[NL]We can map out the bus route and compare this to where students live.

[AJ] Something we can pick up in the next meeting.

7. **Discussion Forum**

[DO] Discussions around [unfair dismissal around racial background of a university lecturer](#). This came out in an article the other week and a meeting is being scheduled to discuss this and how it may impact UoP.

[AK] Freedom of speech was brought up in the TEC faculty discussion forum. Students are aware that debate society is available for free speech but some students have expressed the fact that they want a space for an open discussion where there is no judgement.

[MK] Is this for the faculty specifically or general issues?

[AK] Yes this will be a general discussion place

[CS] National Survey has confused some students about what free speech means and where lines are drawn.

[AJ] The university's concern will be around the implementation of this. As there are different interpretations about what this means it is important to have discussions

around this and take that into account. What the SU can do is continue to encourage students to participate in discussions but also be aware of where you draw the line with discussions.

[DO] We have a [freedom of speech declaration](#) as an SU. Could that be included into the minutes?

[Student] How will the forum be held? What is the implementation around this in general?

[AK] This is just a general idea so these details can be discussed later on.

[DO] It will go out for student consultation.

[AJa] has connections with political society so I can contact someone to arrange a type of debate?

[AK] Needs to be more awareness of academic societies that offer this space.

[DO] Speak to groups exec about this. This comes to the wider issues of academic societies not getting as much attention as sports societies.

Further information on this issue can be found [here](#).

8. **AOB**

Update from Natasha Layley about HYS petition update [Bring Back Spike Safety Kits](#)

[NL] These were never gone. more have been ordered and this has continued all the time.

[AJa] There is an alleyway that students are concerned about around somers town area

[DO] In conversations with the council about this and introducing more CCTV. It will potentially be turned into a cycling lane.

[MK] If anyone is able to send in a one or two minute video about what they like about student council that would be great

[TD]Elections are coming up!

[AJ] ICP. International College of Portsmouth. Partnership with UoP, can vote in elections. Students have the same rights as all UoP students. Strengthening relationships with them. They have a Student Council who meet 3 times a semester. Their Student Council process looks into opportunities for their students to come over to us and how we do Student Council. How they can be of impact. The other way round as well, we go to their Student Council meetings. When their students come to University they can join the Student Council. They would like representation from us at their Student Council Meetings. More Communications around when both

student councils so both are invited to each other. Also help is needed with student council training to see if there are opportunities around this too. To send out invites before hand to make sure that students who are interested can come to council

[TB] Issue regarding council tax when transferring from ICP to UoP. Council blames UoP and UoP blames council. I would appreciate it if you would raise this.

[DO] I have raised these concerns before.

[AJ] I was an ICP student, I had to fill in a tax form so I never had to pay any charges.

[TB] I filled in the form. The amount I owed got reduced but I was still expected to pay £300 due to the gap between finishing college and beginning University.

Date of next meeting - 11/01/2023 3:00-4:30 pm