Aston Students’ Union – Union Council Minutes

Tuesday 27th of October 2020, via Microsoft Teams, 4pm – 6:15pm

228 attendees

Attendees were introduced to how the Union Council works.

Approval of meeting agenda – approved

Approval of previous AGM minutes – approved

Item 1) Motions

* **Item 1.1: Decolonising the curriculum to be part of the SU’s core values (UC2021.01.1a)**

Q: How will the impact of this motion be measured?

*A: Quality charter and surveys will be used to measure the impact. All schools at the University will be asked what they have done so far, and students will continuously receive updates on the progress of this motion.*

Q: What is the SU doing to support BAME communities?

*A: The SU will be working with different ethnic groups in the University to figure out what support they need from the SU. Committees will also be working with the University on this.*

Voting: Motion passed

* **Item 1.2: Changing the LGBT+ Officer title (UC2021.01.1b)**

Voting: Motion passed – title will be changed from “LGBT+ Students’ Officer” to “LGBTQ+ Students’ Officer”

* **Item 1.3: Membership of faith society committees (UC2021.01.1c)**

Q: Can you clarify what problem this would solve?

*A: It would reduce any conflict with national bodies that societies use for their guidelines and ensure consistency.*

Q: Which societies would these apply to?

*A: The 10 Aston Students’ Union faith-based societies*.

Q: What if a person defines as more than one religion? Religion is very personal.

*A: The SU would work and communicate with each society to decide how best to implement this motion.*

Voting: Motion not passed

* **Item 1.4: No to sexual harassment (UC2021.01.1d)**

Q: Can it be incorporated into compulsory training?

*A: Staff will make it open to all Aston students, but compulsory to society members.*

Q: Are there any measures/policies to be implemented?

*A: Training and reporting measures and policies will be implemented in line with the Aston University policy.*

Voting: Motion passed

* **Item 1.5: Non-compliance with Prevent Duty – ‘Students not Suspects’ (UC2021.01.1e)**

Voting: Motion passed

* **Item 1.6: In solidarity with disabled students at Aston (UC2021.01.1f)**

Q: Do you envision this committee being independent from disabled students?

*A: The committee would be like any other committee in the SU.*

Q: Can you clarify on the proposed co-chair position?
*A: The co-chair would be a job-share with the DSO (Disabled Students’ Officer) if they wish.*

Voting: Motion not passed

The proposer of the motion expressed feeling like the time constraints of the meeting prevented them from being able to explain the motion properly, and thus potentially contributed to the lack of votes for the motion.

Action: it was agreed an emergency council meeting would be held for this motion.

Item 2) Officer Updates

Due to the fact the meeting had ran significantly over the expected end time, it was agreed that the SU Officer updates would be filmed in a video for students to watch.

A.O.B.:

Q: Can an emergency motion be raised for the SU to talk about the issues currently happening in Africa so students know we stand in solidarity with them, and have this added this to the BLM section of the SU website?
*A: An emergency council meeting will be held on this.*

Next meeting date: TBC.