**Union Exec Meeting 15th February 2021**

Attendees: Michael Pritchard (MP)\*, Max McLoughlin (MM)\*, Dafydd Jones (Chair), Safa-Atiya Ahmed (SA), Mariam Sohail (MS)\*, Paige Dawson (PD), Onome Ogwuda (OO), Balraj Purewal (BP), Harry Sheppard (HS), Annas Mazhar (AM)

(\*) – Board of Trustees Members and the CEO (MM) who joined as guests.

**Agenda:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *Time* | *Item* | *Person(s)* |
| 1600 | Roll Call | Chair |
|  | Apologies |  |
|  | Sabbatical Officer Updates | Sabbatical officers |
|  | Part Time (PT) Officer Updates | PT officers |
|  | Strategy Update | MM |
|  | Farmers’ Protest | BP |
| 1723 | Any Other Business |  |

# Minutes:

Apologies

Jawad Ahmed (JA), Saad Khan (SK)

*Order of the agenda items was changed at the last minute due to a late arrival.*

## Strategy

MM: Spoke about the strategy for the SU for this next period. The new strategy was delayed due to pandemic. Re-writing for the next two to three years is now taking place, and the trustees would like to use learning from the pandemic period. The strategy helps give confidence to the students that the organisation has a vision and mission for students and to the university that they can be sure that money given is spent appropriately.

HS joins the meeting.

MM: Various survey work has been completed amongst the students, will be having discussion with course representatives and various other meetings. Asks exec what the mission, vision and values should be and what priorities are important.

MM: Shared the strategy document with all of the exec, and possible options for changes.

All: discussed the iterations of the strategy document which was presented to the exec.

MM: Left the meeting.

## Sabbatical Officer Updates

HS: Has been volunteering in the food distribution centre. Elections in March preparations.

SA: Working on student wellbeing call centre, one-to-one interviews and group interviews with candidates. Twenty-five were interviewed, nineteen were ultimately offered a role. Meeting tomorrow regarding a training schedule. Hope to launch the call centre on next Thursday. Also working on a staff and student wellbeing course.

BP: Lots of meetings with clubs and societies, joining with sessions. Working on campaigns (such as This Girl Can). Club and society of the month is happening on Thursday.

## Part Time Officer Updates

BP: complemented PD on the LGBT Podcast.

PD: Doing the LGBT podcast and will be working on asking staff and students to do a marketing campaign against homophobia in April. Had meeting with Steve Bell, PD will be on the University committee for LGBT staff.

HS: Have any of the PT Officers not been invited to their corresponding university committee?

AR: Sustainability committee meeting on Thursday at 1800hrs, working on the Keep Aston Tidy Campaign and on Green Week in March.

OO: Worked with Balraj on a business student employability video. Was contacted by a recent graduate of Aston, who would like to do some talks for the Uni during International Women’s Month. Also working on events/promotion for the Women’s Week. Will hopefully start on the Sprint Programme for women and non-binary students. Helping Jenny with This Girl Can.

AM: Working on the Disability Committee and some wording for the promotion, and the report for Disabled Students in Higher Education will be one of the first things reviewed by the committee.

Chair: Working on making changes to the Union Council, will makes some writing. The next Union Council will be on the 2nd of March.

## Farmers’ Protest

BP: Has been writing a statement on the union’s positions on the farmer’s protest ongoing in India. Also working on a motion for this at union Council,

Chair: What are you asking the union to do?

BP: Ask council to support the statement so as to allow this to be publicised on the union’s social media, possibly purchase a banner.

## AOB

Chair: is there any other business?

All: Discussed song of the fortnight.