

Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union

Student Forum Minutes

Date	Tuesday 14 th October 2025	Time	15:00-17:00
Location	The SU Penryn, and Online		
Chaired By	Forum Facilitator: Tola Ajayi (TA)		
Attendees	14 (including 2 online) – at highest capacity		
Minutes By	Forum Facilitator: Joshua Matemura (JM)		

#	Item	Information	Presented by
1	Welcome and introduction	The Forum Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and outlining the ground rules for discussion and voting and congratulated the newly appointed Forum Facilitators, Tola Ajayi, Farrah Assi, Joshua Matemura and Thomas Quinn	TA
2	Current Union Priority Updates	Student Representatives provided an update 1. Gender-Inclusive Facilities AB - A previous Vice President for Exeter introduced a policy requiring all new university buildings to include gender-inclusive bathrooms. - Modifications have been completed in the Stannary and Sports Centre, and a map identifying all gender-neutral bathrooms on campus has been developed. - Retrofitting existing buildings would require significant infrastructure investment; therefore, further progress will continue as funding allows. - All new builds will have gender-inclusive facilities as standard.	EXEC (Student Representatives, Isabel Brinkley, IB, Jadel Luckman, JL, Aisha Lord, AL, Avery Bailey, AB)

		2. AMATA prices (2024/5) JL • The Amata performance spaces have not seen a price reduction since 2019. These venues continue to support student societies and creative showcases. • The Academy of Musical Theatre and Arts in Falmouth has not yet finalised its pricing agreement. The proposal includes price caps with the potential for reductions after five years. • A commitment has been made to maintain funding to support student creative showcases. 3. Neurodivergent-Friendly Study Spaces IB and AL • The Exchange courtyard, previously lime green, has been repainted in a neutral colour to create a more neurodivergent-friendly environment. • The initiative has expanded, allowing students to book dedicated quiet study areas both in the Exchange courtyard and the library. • The project continues to progress, with no objections or abstentions raised. <i>Discussion Points</i> • Work is ongoing to secure additional study and activity spaces in the Falmouth area, enabling students to book and access rooms independently. • A designated International Students' Space has been established in Tremough House. • Future construction projects will continue to integrate gender-neutral facilities from the outset. • The Forum acknowledged the significant progress made and agreed that trans inclusion work will now be the key priority area.	
--	--	---	--

		4. Student Transport and Bus Services JL - The Forum discussed issues surrounding student transport, including bus pricing, reliability, and accessibility. Background - The U3 student bus route, previously operated by First Bus between Falmouth, the Moor, and the campus, was discontinued due to low usage and lack of financial sustainability. - The primary concern is now student bus pricing, rather than reinstating the U3 service. - The Students' Union is liaising with Cornwall Council and transport providers to explore affordable travel solutions. - A proposal to introduce Stagecoach services for university students is being explored but will require significant funding and planning. - The universities are considering implementing a small campus mini-bus service to support local student transport. - The University does not directly control bus pricing but continues to advocate on behalf of students. Discussion Points - Students with disabilities can apply for bus passes through existing accessibility provisions. - Concerns were raised about unreliable buses, maintenance issues, and inconsistent timetables. - The SU is reviewing other bus divisions, such as GoCornwall, and continues to advocate for annual student passes. - The Little Red Bus was identified as charging high fares (£4 per trip).	
--	--	---	--

		• Several students noted that bus apps are difficult to navigate and lack consistent schedule information. • The Forum recommended directing students to the official transport websites for accurate timetable and service updates. 5. Trans Rights and Inclusion, AB and AL • AB and AL presented an update on the ongoing work to support trans and LGBTQ+ students within the SU and university community. • The SU continues to work with the University to ensure trans-related policies are inclusive, accessible, and focused on student welfare. • Collaboration with trans and LGBTQ+ groups continues to ensure that trans students are fully included in discussions and decision-making processes. • The SU is liaising with Members of Parliament to raise concerns about the national “bathroom ban” proposal and advocate for human rights protections. • Over 600 businesses have been affected by national policy developments that infringe on rights; MPs have been contacted regarding wellbeing and equality matters. Events, Awareness, and Inclusion Work • Work is actively underway for Trans Awareness Week, including awareness campaigns, educational programming, and community engagement events. • Bi-Awareness Week has already taken place successfully, with further events planned for the academic year. • Activities are designed to ensure year-round trans visibility and support rather than isolated awareness weeks.	
--	--	--	--

		• Student Officers are sourcing binders and other supportive materials from ethical, inclusive suppliers. • Trans awareness and inclusion training has been expanded for all SU staff to promote understanding and inclusivity. • Student Officers are planning talks and workshops for trans students, in collaboration with the Trans Collective and external partners. • Logistics are still being finalised, but optimism remains high for strong participation in upcoming events.	
4	Voting Outcomes	Gender Neutral/Inclusive Bathrooms (AB) • Motion to close priority on gender-inclusive facilities carried unanimously. 14 votes for, 0 against, 0 abstaining AMATA prices (JL) • Motion to close the priority. The Forum voted to close this issue, agreeing that adequate progress has been made and that other matters now take priority. 13 votes for, 0 against, 1 abstaining Buses (TA) • Motion to combine the two current bus priorities. The Forum voted to combine issues relating to bus pricing and reliability into one ongoing action area for future review. 13 votes for, 0 against, 1 abstaining	TA
5	Make a Change proposals	No new Make a Changes were submitted or reached the voting threshold for this Forum. There are currently 2 live Make a Change Proposals available to vote on that TA drew attendees attention to. Sanitary Product Accessibility • Members were encouraged to upvote the proposal regarding sanitary product	FF

		accessibility to help prioritise it for FXPlus discussions. • Previous reluctance from FXPlus was noted, but Forum endorsement will support future advocacy. Student Gym Facilities • A proposal to improve the student gym area has recently been added to Make a Change and currently has six votes. • It will require more engagement before it can be formally discussed. • FXPlus has indicated they are open to reviewing the issue if further student support is demonstrated.	
6	Summary	TA Summarised the Meeting: Ongoing Union Priorities include: • Student representatives actively support tran students' right to exist as themselves. - Union Priority • Exploring better provision for neurodiverse students on campus - Union Priority Voting Outcomes • Forum Voted to close the Gender Neutral/Inclusive Bathrooms Priority • Forum voted to close the Amata Pricing Priority • Forum Voted to combine the two Bus Priorities (Student Bus Prices, Bring Back the U3) Live Make a Changes were drawn attention to • Sanitary Product Accessibility • Student Gym Facilities	TA
7	AOB and Close	Any Other Business • The Chair reminded attendees of the availability of the Quiet Room for wellbeing and reflection. Minority Group Consultations	TA

		• Collective sessions are ongoing for minority groups to raise issues and propose changes. • The next session for postgraduate students is scheduled for Thursday, 16 October at 2:00 p.m. • These sessions follow the Collective Meet Up sessions that occurred during welcome. Close • The meeting concluded with free pizza provided to attendees to encourage informal discussion and community engagement.	
8	Date of next meeting	November 27th	