

Falmouth & Exeter Students' Union

Student Council 2022/2023

Date	14/12/2022	Time	15:00
Location	Online via MS Teams		
Part Time Officers	Francesca Whetstone – Community Officer (FW) Jonathan Stowell – Environment and Ethics Officer (JS) Tes Choi – Liberation Officer (TC) Caius Datt – Education Officer (UG Exeter) (CD) Jordan Pidwell – Volunteering Officer (JP) Bobby Angelov – Societies Officer (BA) Jack Myrick – Falmouth Open Officer (JM) Nick De Prazer – Mature Students Officer (NDP)		
SU Presidents	Kira Orchard - President Welfare and Inclusivity (KO) Luke Court - President Falmouth (LC) - Chair Georgi Griskeviciene - President Exeter (GG) Lauren Taylor - President Student Experience (LT)		
SU Staff	Charlie Atkinson - Student Voice Coordinator, Exeter (CA) – Minutes Secretary Karen Draycott – Head of People and Governance (KD)		
Apologies	Abigail Lockwood-Morris – Sports Officer (ALM) Rebecca Hunt – Student Voice Chair (RH) Amber Clifton – Exeter Open Officer		
Observers	Penny Davies - Student Voice Coordinator, Falmouth (PD)		

	Item	Type	Lead
1	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Welcome • This is the second Council Meeting of the Academic Year, and the last of 2022! • RC is unable to attend, LC will chair instead. 	Verbal	Chair
2	<p>Ratification of Minutes</p> <p>JP – 5.1 SHOULD BE MOVED INTO IT’S OWN SECTION.</p> <p>ACTION: CA to Change Court Case statement. Clarified around PFD being issued.</p>	To approve	Chair
3	<p>SU Democracy Review</p> <p>There was a presentation by CA and KD talking about the Democracy Review, and the potential changes to the roles of Presidents.</p> <p>JP- How would this affect campaigning? How will students campaign and build a manifesto?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">KD- Students can run on a manifesto and will be supported to develop this through the campaigns period.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Often run on a manifesto, and the work with the SU once election to focus on issues.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The VP role will help people to run.</p> <p>TC-Likes that the roles are on the same level currently. Could a change make the VP roles seem secondary?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">KD- Discussions often take place at governing bodies. This will spread that across the team, and to help the institutions understand that there are specific delegated roles.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">LC – Presidents can offer clarity.</p> <p>JS- Issues around hierarchy, and that the university has gone to specific presidents. Concerns that the VPs will become administrative support.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">LC- By having an open portfolio, discussions happening at high level governing boards often can be kept out in current roles. Having an open portfolio can help share out any issues that the student body may be facing.</p>		

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	<p>Once elected, Pres' training often around delegating work.</p> <p>Changing JDs and titles aim to ensure that the SU can be flexible and support the student's needs.</p> <p>KD- Would not be administrative, projects/themes/issues would be delegated across the team, as well as VPs having any focuses.</p> <p>JM- Any changes to voting?</p> <p>KD- No, not sure on how VPs will be elected yet.</p> <p>JS-With the roles currently, will there be a need for more PTOs?</p> <p>KD-Second part of the Democracy Review is to look at the structures, PTOs and the ability to feed back to members.</p> <p>CA- Take place next term.</p> <p>KD- Presidents is time dependent, for the next round of Full-time Elections.</p> <p>TC- LT and KO, how would this change your roles.</p> <p>KO – Unsure how entirely it would look like, have done shared priorities this year, and delegated leads on different focuses.</p> <p>LT- sees the role working on joint priorities, my own were focused on student opportunities and extra curriculars. The open manifestos means that you could run on these, but the role isn't constrained to titles. Open portfolio may be more difficult to niche it down.</p> <p>LC- Trying not to pigeonhole presidents into specific roles for the year, and to play to individual strengths</p> <p>TC- Things may get left behind by accident.</p> <p>LC- This has been a discussion for three president teams before this one, this team have been working on joint priorities for the first time.</p> <p>This proposal is to fix those issues which the previous teams have come across. Pres team to be able to share priorities.</p> <p>TC- Is two VPs enough?</p> <p>LC- This team is doing a good job to be in the spaces they need to be. Small campus, may not need any more. Last year, Pres Exe was overwhelmed by meetings, taking on those of Student Experience and Liberation and Wellbeing.</p>		

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	<p>JS – I’m supportive of having more people in the room, and supportive of distributing the load more evenly. Without the second half, the two roles may be lost.</p> <p>GG – The responsibilities will be written into next year’s team, and that these roles are wider than the titles themselves. Brought up already, but the idea the Unis call on specific Pres come from the unique experience in Cornwall. Not to get rid of these focuses, to make it more relatable to students.</p> <p>JP – Do VPs without Portfolio exist elsewhere?</p> <p>LC- Common in SUs to have VPs. More common than the current set up. Unis will always have Student Governors, which is what the President roles currently are.</p> <p>JP- Other SUs have VPs with Portfolios. Having no portfolio leaves it too open. To be sustainable, VPs need their own remit.</p> <p>KD- Partly around us being a unique SU with two Unis. There are open portfolio officers at other unions. Time critical to get through with ambiguous roles. RDs and campaigning need clarity.</p> <p>JS- Guarantee that the roles may exist elsewhere. Sits uncomfortably.</p> <p>TC – The Exeter and Falmouth Pres already take on these responsibilities, could this change and put more responsibility on?</p> <p>GG- A case of what is in the RDs. Current RDs are not fit for purpose.</p> <p>KO- Isn’t an extra responsibility. We’re not the first SU to have VPs. The Guild currently do as well.</p> <p>CD- Same position as JS, without clarifying the RDs before voting. The Student Body may feel that the roles have been downgraded by changing these roles to VPs.</p> <p>KD – Gave assurance that these roles will be in the RDs.</p> <p>MP- Explained how to vote.</p> <p>MOTION PASSES 4 YES 3 NO 4 ABSTAIN</p>		
4	<p>Matters arising (see appendix for further details):</p> <p>LC – Explained MA</p> <p><i>The SU to show support in favour of the UCU strikes; appx 1</i></p> <p>LC – Opened the discussion.</p>	Make a Change	Chair

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	<p>JP – Appx stated that the strikes took place in the past, what is this vote on?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">LC – This is to talk about future action and the outcome.</p> <p>TC – What would Presidents want?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">LC – Our role of President is to raise the Student Voice.</p> <p>TC – Unsure about the issues, for the SU to take a stance.</p> <p>JS – Support the stance. Not just for the lecturers, but the academic experience in general. The impacts that this has on students. Communicate why the SU has taken a stance, and to explain to students who take other views.</p> <p>BA – Endorsing this topic is quite political, and that Union should be careful. The Union should potentially remain impartial.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">LC – This was proposed by students on MAC, and reached the threshold to be discussed at SC.</p> <p>MP – Explained Action Short of Strike.</p> <p>KO – This isn't the union asking you, this is students asking through Make a Change.</p> <p>As an SU, we are impartial until voted otherwise, like now. We held a Q&A session for students to ask questions around the strikes, and the fact that students joined pickets shows interest.</p> <p>LC – Presidents are voting members.</p> <p>MOTION PASSES</p> <p>Motion stands until the next ballot to strike on other issues.</p> <p><i>University of Exeter and Falmouth University to Divest from The Border Industry; appx 2</i></p> <p>GG – Does everyone understand the issue that is being voted on.</p> <p>JP – Not entirely sure what the stance is to be on.</p> <p>JS – Uni of Exe is invested in companies being involved in border violence. The border industry is racist, and oppressive to minorities. Borders are a business, and businesses lobby government to affect policy. This is to call for policy change through the SU. Previously, the Uni has divested in fossil fuels.</p> <p>JP – Thanked JS for thorough description. Understanding how this is a racist industry. Doesn't align with the Uni strategy?</p>	<p>Make a Change</p>	

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	<p>GG – Agree with everything so far, we can't change the policy, but can lobby for change. GG to mostly likely be the President to take this forward. What is Fal policy?</p> <p>JS – Fal do not engage with companies involved in the border industry, but no policy against.</p> <p>GG – If goes though, would want to have a conversation with JS about this.</p> <p>MOTION PASSES</p> <p><i>The SU to oppose the dismissal of Zoe, the Pagan Chaplain; appx 3</i></p> <p>LC – Explained the MAC.</p> <p>LC – Placed David Dickinson statement in the chat.</p> <p>KO – Complicated issue, ultimately not enough info on both sides, the action we can take is limited. Voluntary chaplain, not an employee, we can only say we oppose or not. Was not dismissed simply for being there. They attended the end Fossil Group occupation of the Chapel LT.</p> <p>LC – Zoe is also still a local council member, and is still involved with the universities, and that they have been asked to not volunteer with the chaplaincy.</p> <p>JS – Concerning as this is a suppression of protest? The circumstances of losing their role form attending the protest.</p> <p>KO – MAC is about the specific person; the person was let go due to issues surrounding this. This is a different issue.</p> <p>JP – Agree with JS, everyone has a right to protest, GG put in chat to support the student. Whether volunteer or staff, if asked not to go to something, there is a need to act in a professional capacity while at work. The chaplain may have acted in a personal capacity while in a professional space.</p> <p>LC – The sit-in, having Zoe attend and be dismissed is overshadowing the work done by the protest. The SU has worked with end Fossil with taking a stance and supporting the Peoples' Assembly. By having DD send statement, this could be derailing the process. May be better to allow the situation to be what it is.</p> <p>FW – LC and KO points go hand in hand, not enough info to vote.</p>	<p>Make a Change</p>	

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	<p>TC – Would it be possible to make a wider statement on the right to protest?</p> <p>LC – This may need to go through MAC process again. The chaplain was not attending the protest.</p> <p>MOTION FAILS</p>		
5	<p>Agenda item – Feedback PTOs to bring feedback</p> <p>FW – Had a busy term but have been squirreling away at the idea on study spaces in the local community. Been speaking to people to formulate a list.</p> <p>JS – We had a green committee meeting last month, with three attending. How to get things moving with that? Biodiversity Officer wants students to record biodiversity on campus. Energy officer to include WFH emissions in data. Committee has endorsed fossil free careers, as has SU. Good for elevating, but not heard much from above. Reports back from the presidents.</p> <p>TC – Hard to get a meeting and WhatsApp chat up for Liberation committee.</p> <p>KO – Lib Committee spoke about ILPs and Academic help in department, Disability Officer discussed Disabled Student network.</p> <p>CD – Looking at EDI training for students before attending. Looking at if this can be implemented more widely, so that everyone has the same baseline before coming to Uni next term.</p> <p>JP – Catching up with Jedd about volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>BA – Will be looking forward to the next Activities Forum, to gather feedback on how societies are run and how we can support them more.</p> <p>JM – Looking into wellbeing support at the university. Hoping to raise the drop-in wellbeing meetings. Would like to discuss that not many students are voting. Both Presidential and PTO election.</p> <p>NDP – Set up a WhatsApp group, hoping to kick on in the new year.</p>	Verbal	
6	<p>Holding presidents to account</p> <p>KO – Can email about anything, back in 3rd Jan. Setting up Disabled and Autistic Student network. Feeding back from BRM on COL. Student Wellbeing Charter work, ranking the</p>	Verbal	

	Item	Type	Lead
	<p>services and what is best for students. Feedback on CoL wellbeing systems.</p> <p>LT – Sensory garden has green light, student sports panel about outdoor space, Society Spotlight is going well, NUS CoL Campaign bootcamp, response from MP letter, activities forum recently, was great for student feedback. Roadblock with Cob Shed, not usable currently. Research into HEAR Reports. Democracy review, early process of planning Sexhibition.</p> <p>LC – Main point of student showcase come to fruition, called the ‘Big Showcase’ on both campuses. Both study blocks going forward. Working with Fal Employability teams in creating a platform for students to sell work. Working on TEF report for Fal Uni. Explained TEF and Student Submission. Working with SV team to have draft to the Uni. Cost of Learning group has been happening. Started meeting with Department reps more, CoLearning changes across practice.</p> <p>KO – We Bleed, 300 lidded bins added to Glasney Halls. Any feedback, send to Kira.</p> <p>JP – KO, Disabled Student network, potentially look into renaming the network? More inclusive naming.</p> <p>BA – LT maybe LC, Update on events on Wood Lane campus? Organise more social events on Wood Lane Campus, difficult to set up currently with paperwork and organising.</p> <p>LT – More difficult due to space and noise restrictions. More society events taking place on Wood Lane, new engagement manager is keen on this.</p> <p>LC – Last week worked on a ‘Winter Wonderland’ event on Wood Lane.</p> <p>JS – Well done KO on We Bleed Campaign. The SU has endorsed Fossil Free Careers, and Georgi has been working with Exeter, what about Fal?</p> <p>LC – LC has been talking about this with Provost. Fal may not be taking this quite as seriously. Conversations have been happening. The topic came up at an Academic Board meeting recently. The unis can see that staff and students are engaging with this movement gives weight. Work keeps on in the new year.</p> <p>KO – Pres’ have meeting with Amie Fulton, supportive of the People’s Assembly movement, and that Exeter is running a partnership meeting where these issues can be raised to them. It is on both Unis radar.</p>		

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	<p>JS – Two hours disappointing that has taken too long to get here. Is there a way to have more often feedback on President work, and transparency.</p> <p>KO -Holding Presidents to account. Come and ask about what you want to know. Blog post and updates have been going out.</p> <p>LC – Confidentiality issues on sharing meeting minutes.</p>		
7	<p>Any other business</p> <p>No AOB was raised.</p>	Verbal	
8	<p>Date and Time of the next meeting</p> <p>LC – Mid Feb?</p> <p>Action – MP/CA to talk to RH about Mid Feb for next SC meeting.</p>	Email	

Appendix:

Appx 1: Make a change: The SU to show support in favour of the UCU strikes

“This proposal is for students to vote to get the SU to show support for the UCU strikes happening nationally on the 24th, 25th, and 30th of November, at both Falmouth and Exeter universities. We believe that as students of a Students' Union, we should be able to officially declare our support for our lecturers and academic staff and having the SU in support would really help to put pressure on the university management teams to meet their industrial action demands.”

- Please note that strikes, and other industrial action is likely to continue into 2023.
- Other forms of industrial action (AKA , refusing to make up work lost as a result of strike action, refusing to cover for absent colleagues and marking boycott.

Appx 2: Make a change: University of Exeter and Falmouth University to Divest from The Border Industry

“Border violence is rife and is inflicted and propagated by corporations, some of which are supported by university investments We call on the Student Union to publicly endorse the Divest borders campaign demanding that the University of Exeter and Falmouth University: Adopt a publicly available ethical investment policy which excludes border industry companies Exclude border industry companies from their investments Fully divest from current investments in border companies within 3 years. “

- This is a campaign from the student organisation People and Planet.
- More information about divest borders, what it means and a list of companies that the campaign is explicitly focussed on can be found here: [Divest Borders | People & Planet \(peopleandplanet.org\)](https://peopleandplanet.org/divest-borders/)

Appx 3: The SU to oppose the dismissal of Zoe, the Pagan Chaplain

Following the occupation of the Chapel Lecture Theatre by EndFossil Fal/Ex. Zoe, the pagan chaplain was dismissed from her post. She was asked for support by students who were involved in the occupation (bearing in mind supporting students is in her job description). After a picture of her was taken trying to give the occupiers a basket of fruit, a complaint was made about her presence, and she was dismissed. We are appealing this dismissal and need full SU support.