

Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

6th November 2018, 4pm, Tremough House Boardroom



Falmouth & Exeter
Students' Union

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Present:

Yemisi Shobowale (YC)	Student Voice Chairperson (Chair)
Chris Bigland (CB)	Open Officer (Falmouth)
Harry Bishop (HB)	President Community and Welfare
Jamie Cranston (JC)	Postgraduate Research Officer (Exeter)
Phoebe Coppell (PC)	Sports Officer
Iona Davies (ID)	Fundraising Officer
Callie Edwards (CE)	President Falmouth
Usman Kidiri (UK)	Postgraduate Taught Academic Officer (Falmouth)
Kurt Lewis (KL)	Mature Student Officer
Henry Massimo (HM)	Volunteering Officer
Fatuma Mohamud (FM)	Widening Student Participation Officer
River Owsley-Brown (ROB)	Undergraduate Academic Officer (Falmouth - Penryn Campus)
Francis Owusu (FO)	International Officer
Sarah Redman (SR)	President Student Experience
Izi Robe (IR)	President Exeter
Elizabeth Streeter (ES)	Environment and Ethics Officer
Esther Wilson (EW)	Community Chair

Apologies:

Bee Hellier (BH)	Undergraduate Academic Officer (Exeter)
Sajjad Jabarkhel (SJ)	Societies Officer
Kirsten Perkins (KP)	Liberation Committee Chair
Mafalda Ribeiro (MR)	Open Officer (Exeter)
Ryan Tranter (RT)	Undergraduate Academic Officer (Falmouth – Falmouth Campus)

In Attendance:

Izzy Aruna (IA)	Standing for Faith Officer
Natasha Midgely (NM)	Standing for Postgraduate Taught Academic Officer (Exeter)
Ben Rowswell (BR)	Student Voice Director

Voting attendees 17/22 – quorate reached if 9 or more.

2. Co-opt Vacant Positions

BR welcomes candidates who have applied to current vacant positions to the meeting. Candidates are offered the opportunity to introduce themselves and why they are interested with the role. Two posts being co-opted today are:

Postgraduate Taught Academic Officer (Exeter)

Candidate: Natasha Midgley



Faith Officer

Candidate: Izzy Aruna

Candidates asked to leave the room whilst voting takes place.

RESULTS:

Postgraduate Taught Academic Officer (Exeter)

Natasha Midgley – 16 votes

Faith Officer

Izzy Aruna – 16 votes

Elected candidates are welcomed and join the meeting but do not have voting rights until the next meeting.

3. Zones Updates & Proposals

Student Experience Zone - SR

SR invites Officers from the Student Experience Zone to give an update of what they are up to.

- ID (Fundraising Officer) will be hosting a Charity Ball on the 1st December in the Stannary. It will be raising money for Samaritans (FXU's charity of the year) and Surfers Against Sewage (Local charity of the year). Other charities will also be present. Please buy tickets and spread the word about it.
- PC (Sports Officer) this week is Give it a go week. We have 500 programmes that have been distributed around campus and it seems to be going really well so far. Each session there will be a register taken to so we can see how many people go to the sessions and what the balance is of members & non-members. We'll also be asking attendees questions about marketing too and we'll share the results here.
- HM (Volunteering Officer) it's National Student Volunteers Week from the 16th to the 21st of February. We'll be hosting events around and during that week including: Animal Welfare and Conservation Conference the weekend before 16th, which is free for anyone to attend; and Student Led Volunteering Projects will be fundraising through a Quiz in the Stannary on the Wednesday of that week. The quiz will be using Kahoot. Legends hoodies update soon.
- ES (Environment and Ethics Officer) nominations are open to the Green committee and we've had nominations of each position with lots of interest. Went to the NUS conference last week - showed how great a 'green culture' we have down here and made good connections with other Students' Unions and Friends of the Earth.
- SR - New proposal for 'Societies Committee'
 - Committee would meet twice a term, attended by societies manager and chaired by societies officer.
 - There would be 7 positions: Falmouth Academic & Course-Related Society Officer, Exeter Academic & Course-Related Officer, Arts, Music &



Performance Society Officer, Hobby & Special Interest Society Officer, Hobby & Special Interest Society Officer, Representative, Faith & Liberation Society Officer, Media Society Officer and Political Campaigning Society Officer.

- Focus of the committee would be to prove links between societies within their category, advise the Societies Officer and President Student Experience on the best interests of the societies, provide guidance to societies on how to run events, meetings & socials and encourage groups to 'Adopt a Charity'.

Vote to approve 'Societies Committee' Proposal

YES – 17

NO – 0

ABSTAIN – 0

Proposal APPROVED

Falmouth Zone – CE

- CB (Open Officer) provides an update on the FXU newsletter. The newsletter has been made more targeted and the first version of the will be going out on Friday.
- ROB no updates at the moment, but talking to CB about once a month collaboration.
- UK (PGT Officer) is organising a PG event every Friday with drinks in the Stannary from 3pm. Open to all Postgraduates, Falmouth and Exeter.
- CE has had lots of feedback about people smoking too close to Falmouth Campus. Looking into campaigns as to how to change this.

Exeter Zone – IR

- No Zones meeting yet so no updates from officers.
- IR's PGR talks will be going ahead in December and launched as 'Food for Thought' as they run over lunchtimes.
- IR attended NUS Zones last week and went to sessions on academic representation and the black attainment gap. She is also running for Societies and Citizenship Zone.
- The Big Rep Meeting will be happening on 14th November from 4pm. It's open to all reps from every course and year with the opportunity to grill the big wigs. We'd love to have help from the Leadership Team, getting them to facilitate discussion in sessions for academic and student experience topics.

Community and Welfare Zone – HB

- HB is lobbying for more gender-neutral bathrooms. This is happening already but bringing it here for info. The general trend at the University at the moment is turning disabled bathrooms into gender neutral bathrooms but we want to make sure all future plans for bathrooms are gender neutral. These bathrooms will not have urinals and just have cubicles to make it more inclusive for non-binary students. Sanitary items will be put in both bathrooms.
Q: Will bathrooms be extended to take out queue time?
A: This will be part of the plans and bathrooms will move into a larger space.



Vote to approve 'gender neutral bathrooms' proposal

Yes – 17

No – 0

Abstain – 0

Proposal APPROVED

- FO International students week is next week. We will share the promotional material to everyone. He's also working with library to get a dedicated section for authors from more diverse backgrounds. The library have said yes to this and they're looking now to provide multiple copies so we can have a dedicated section as well as copies in the general shelves.
 - ES will have a community edition of voices at the beginning of next year. The Community wardens are doing well.
 - KL will be meeting with HB about organising drop in sessions for mature students every other Friday, details to be confirmed. Commuting students have also commented that they want access to making tea/ coffee and a microwave.
 - ID confirms the shop microwave is available for everyone to use. It's just important that people keep it tidy. Perhaps the shop needs better communications around this.
 - CE – Woodlane has a good system in place for this
 - NM – Masters Suite feedback has focused on how good the hot water tap and microwave have been
- ACTION: SR to take this forward.**
- FM spoken to Equality and Diversity Officer in Politics about creating an advisory group. Lots of feedback from students about the lack of presence of Black History Month. Will be looking to support BAME Officer and ASC to host events in November and throughout the year to celebrate Black History in different ways.

General Comments & Actions from Previous meetings

- Presidents to meet with Ben Rowswell:
 - BR doesn't want to dictate the shape of the zone. Those who haven't met as a zone – it's MEGA important so do get into that pattern
 - CE – works better now
- Proposal to change name for Mature Students Officer
 - KR – meeting on Thursday to discuss this further
- Update on People's Vote March:
 - 700,000 people there and FXU students in attendance had a good time. Their banner made it to the front cover of the observer.
 - Funding was confirmed and no costs to students.
 - IR – Amatey Doku (VP Higher Education, NUS) has said that his priority for the year is Brexit as it's a big risk to HE. The next thing NUS are launching is 'Write this wrong' where students write to their MPs from here or home.

Q: What can we do about it? Can we push this campaign??



- FXU don't have a current stance on this as the Board of Trustee policy is out of date. HB we are the only union who doesn't have a stance on the People's Vote / Brexit.
Q: Can we have a referendum as a union about this?
- FM – we should stop pushing it to societies to support, we should have a union stance. A referendum allows for engagement and discussion.
- JC – A referendum would be a bad idea
- KL – A Referendum gives everyone their say
- SR – Should we be responding to this in the same way as last year's strike? We then had a very divided response and had to split our time accordingly which meant both parties were frustrated with us.
- BR – The AGM is in the next few weeks... this could be a motion at the next AGM! People will be able to speak for and against the motion, summarise their points and then vote if we have quorate.

4. Make a Change updates & referrals

Updates from last meeting:

Bicycle storage at Games Studio

- SR – Travel Liaison Group are looking into doing this. It's a quick fix and it's just about making it happen. SR will pressure it regularly!

New referrals

Letting IT Staff help students fix PCs

- SR – come up quite a lot through other feedback routes. No changes in policy, just enforcement of the actual policy. Change of management has enforced this change. Met with head of IT, no current mechanism to be able to offer this service and it's not a service that can be provided. We won't change it. But we are looking at an external company to come in to do this with the cost being absorbed by FXPlus! This has to go through a formal tender, but will hopefully in place for January. IT won't give you hardware support but anything else yes! Flagged this is wrong on the webpage.

- CE – it's not common practise in Universities.

VOTE to mandate SR to continue working on this.

YES – 17

NO – 0

ABSTAIN – 0

Proposal APPROVED

Compost Bins

- SR – We currently don't have them because there are staffing requirements to make this work. Used to be that a society ran it. We're looking at new compost bins around campus as we currently only have a small one in the gardens run by Green Living. This will progress for on campus accommodation if student volunteers run it!
- CB – For private accommodation can we share on Cornwall Council composting options.



Vote to mandate SR to take this forward

YES – 17

NO – 0

ABSTAIN – 0

Proposal APPROVED

5. AOB

- We're helping students get to the Diwali celebrations at the University of Exeter's Streatham Campus on Sunday 11th November by organising a bus. You just have to sign up by paying a refundable £5 deposit.
- HM – The Guild (UoE Devon Campus Students' Union) have an official policy on digital check in which is to abolish it, should we have a stance?
 - NM – Have heard that people have taken the beacons home so they can check in from there and other students are not using it on purpose. The iExeter App in general isn't very good.
 - HB – bring it to the AGM?
- CB – Please come to the AGM to have face to face conversations with University management about student mental health and disruption on campus due to development.
 - HB – what can we do to get attendance up? It's often very poor. BR – We're making sure to include topics of student interest but we need the leadership team to share the poster too please.
 - SR – did you know about construction work before we just mentioned it. 6 out of 22 people present knew.
- HM – Why is facebook main way to send invites? Can we have email invitations too.
 - JC – would like to know the agenda in advance too please.

6. Close and next meeting

AGM: Wednesday 21st November, 4pm, Falmouth Campus, LT 2