

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 29th January 2021, 12pm BST

**In attendance:** David Gordon, Bali Birch-Lee, Morgan Fairless, Laura Godard, Sarah Gerwins, Cerelie Doyle, Faiso Kadiye, Edouard Paniculo, Alice Saitta, Jennifer Hastings, Jay Crosbie

The meeting was **quorate**, so all decisions are binding.

### **1) General Updates**

Sarah asks on behalf of a student if there's still a plan on taking on the campaign for a neurodivergent officer even though the motion did fail.

David said it's up to the committee to take elements of this up. He states that there are some questions regarding that role. Bali states that they would be interested in not necessarily a creation of a new role but potentially renaming the disabled student officer to something like 'Disability and Neurodivergent Student Officer'. There's a understanding that its hard to represent everyone who identifies as disabled or neurodivergent and that they aren't the same thing but this is a way to ensure more people feel represented, and feel empowered to run.

**ACTION:** Find out what the process is for renaming an Officer, does it need to be a UGM or can it be done by Exe Committee.

Bali provides updates on the biggest wins they've had. In Education Committee it was agreed that online proctoring will not be taken forward for summer exams, instead they'll be unlimited usages of synchronous examinations. There are issues for international students but this is a successful trade off.

Laura provides an update on her sexual violence UGM. LSE is hiring a sexual violence councillor to deal with instances of sexual and gendered violence at LSE. This was especially huge win as they've hired this councillor during a period of a hiring freeze. Laura also updates Exec committee on her Mental Health Survey. There's hope that due to LSE's interest in their inclusion education plan that lobbying will be more successful.

**ACTION:** For Exec Committee to send around the Mental Health Survey to their relevant constituents.

Sarah asks if these focus groups can be done specifically for PGR students as they're often ignored.

David provides a some updates. Trustee board has taken up a governance board review session from NUS. Trustees felt like they got a lot out of it. David is working with James Hann (CEO) on a strategy for the organisation which he hopes everyone can feed into in the near future. We're working on changing the articles of association. There's hope that this will mean they can change the articles of association to ensure that more non LSE experts can sit on the board to help governance. We need 250 students to vote in favour of the amendments.

David also updates on the SUAF Campaigns and opens the floor for questions.

### **2) PTO Updates**

Cerelie updates on how the AU is doing, acknowledges that there was a lack of engagement last term

but have decided to change their tactics. Strava Community are offering prizes for the furthest walked, ran, swan or cycled. There's 88 people signed up too. This should create a bit of excitement. AU is also creating a podcast aiming for 4/5 podcast done by the end of the term with celebrity guests. Looking at getting rainbow laces for pride week.

**ACTION: Share the Strava Community incentive to all students.**

Alice provides an update on fundraising. They managed to get the fundraising link at the LSE Christmas Party and they managed to raise £7000. There's also going to be a link to event LSE public event to get people to donate the homelessness partnership. Alice is working with the Societies team to redefine the role of RAG going forward. Generally the role of RAG Officer as a PTO is unclear, so they're working on a big document to make communications going forward a lot clearer, and more transparent. RAG Conference is happening in two weeks time.

### **3) GTA Rep**

Bali provides an overview on the GTA Rep. Riccardo has been a very strong voice for an underrepresented group of students. GTAs face a lot of difficulties and complications due to balancing both student roles and staff roles. They're often not the best treated members of staff. Riccardo has really taken the mantle up on representing these students. However, he was not elected officially as the GTA Officer in the elections. Exec Committee are discussing whether or not to allow him to be the official Officer. GTA Rep isn't part of exec committee. Exec Committee has the power to decide this.

Bali is in favour of having Riccardo as the rep. Sarah, who has worked closely with Riccardo is in favour — she has been working with him closely for a while and advocates for how much work he is doing. Sarah has a question, the GTA Rep is supposed to sit on the Education Committee but the position says vacant on the membership. Is there currently a provision that the GTA Rep has a safe seat on the Committee.

**ACTION:** Sarah or Morgan or David to write to them to request that it's a permanent seat for the GTA Rep.

David takes this as a relatively uncontroversial decision and that there is a unanimous decision to have Riccardo as the GTA Representative.

### **4) Contentious Campaign**

There's a process for contentious campaigns where it comes to exec committee for approval. There's two reasons for its contentious nature: it could duplicate existing work and it has high expenditure. There's a cross over in membership potentially between J4C and this particular campaign as well, which is another reason why more research needs to be done before Exec Committee can decide. A decision may come quicker than the next meeting if it can be agreed upon via email.

**ACTION:** For all PTOs to read the contentious campaign and to decide next meeting.

**ACTION:** For Sophie to speaking to existing campaigns to see if it could be synergistic rather than contentious.

### **5) AOB**

Morgan is working on a small piece of research on how to improve Postgraduate representation in the

SU. Morgan requests if anyone has any idea to organise a meeting with him or send an email to bounce ideas off. Morgan will be circulating the draft report around soon.