

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 27th October 2020, 12pm BST

**Apologies:** Alice, Sabir and Faiso

**In attendance:** David Gordon, Bali Birch-Lee, Ellie Cottrell, Thiago Pontes, Laura Godard, Ellie Duplock, Cerelie Doyle, Ed, Jay Crosbie

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

### **1) Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

All members of exe committee completed officer survey.

Engage in motions and campaigns — info about what motions came quite late but PTOs who want to get involved in motions can do.

Further discussions about safety on campus - wasn't directly followed up but conversation have been happening and town halls have occurred.

Ellie asked about student crowding outside the tuns, students often in groups larger than six — what is being done to address this issue? David says The White Horse is the big problem, estates are looking into the issue. Cerelie says there isn't a license to have people with drinks outside but the tuns so there's not much that they can do. Ellie C is happy with estate looking into this issue. David says there's discussion of creating an outdoor social space that could be monitored better and what is feasible.

David said it's not likely that we join a slack, unless half the officer team wants it to happen.

David and Bali to look at study spaces, they've spoken tot he school and the school is looking at how they are advertised. Bali has communicated feedback about the library to the School.

David and Bali hasn't directly sourced feedback from students feeling safe on campus. However, David says there's few very instances of students getting covid on campus — which is partially thanks to LSE's track and trace. David notes this is quite promising.

Sabir's action was followed up on and so was Ellie's on LSE's green impact.

### **1) Green Events Week**

Ellie shows the officer the schedule for green week and asks for feedback. The whole idea of green week was to do intersectional environmentalism, pertaining to a wide range of issues. Three types of events: Social events, Academic events, Activist events.

Ellie wanted officer's input to bring in different types of groups into this. For example, bringing faith into environmentalism. Ellie wanted to see if anyone had any idea for events they wanted to collaborate on, or any specific events they could work on. Ellie is waiting to see if Geography wanted to collaborate.

Ellie would like to bring in more societies but societies have pre planned their events already. Ellie opens the floor to any and all ideas.

Ellie will be reaching out to part time officers who aren't here for any additional input.

David congratulates Ellie on doing a fantastic job on Green Week.

David asks if Ellie needs any further support — Ellie says the only thing she needs is as many officers at the Tuesday event as possible, which is a sit in. She also asks if people can share events on their socials.

Bali suggests that Trans Awareness remembrance day is 20th of November so maybe there's some form of collaboration.

**Actions:**

**Ellie:** Reach out to PTOs to see if there's more collaboration.

**Ellie:** To send over social media content to members of Exe Committee to promote

**Sabbatical Officers:** Promote events on their social media streams

## 2) Black Lives Matter Motion

David says the main update is there's a motion happening, Laura has created a Facebook event for the motion. David is enthusiastic to make this one of the most voted for motions ever. David opens the floor to any questions or comments.

Ellie asks because there's no slack how can we support any on-going initiatives.

David says that the meetings that happen outside of the main committee the specific officers are invited but the message should be spread out to all officers.

Laura says we need 250 votes to pass with a simple majority.

**Actions**

**All Officer:** Spread the message about the motion to get it voted on.

**Jay:** To send invite to BLM after all officers after the initial group has responded

## 4) Pressing Student Issues / PTO Updates.

David asks for PTO to feedback about any pressing student issues and what the SU can do to help

Thiago says LSE has been fine, could be better. He feels quite safe on campus. Thiago finished the guidance and is moving on to the campaign side of work. Thiago discusses his meeting on Weds with Bali and Laura to launch the campaign. This Friday there's a queer assembly with LGBTQ+ students so he can hear their feedback and see if there's anything that's been missed. Thiago

asks if it's possible to create a motion about LGBT safety.

David congratulates Thiago on all his work. Pride alliance wants to be categorised as a different type of group, and the SU has said that that's not possible. David says he's happy to talk more about it but he doesn't know too much about it. If it becomes an issue again, David says they can talk about it again.

David asks if there's any tangible steps that could be made to prevent Queer students feeling unsafe as it's an issue that needs to be solved.

Thiago believes the SU needs to make a big effort to tackle homophobia and transphobia. A fresher was homophonically verbally abused. But report it stop it did nothing about it. There's a far right christian group harassing UoL groups and targeting vulnerable groups. Financial support for the break is necessary because LGBTQ+ students might not want to go home during the break.

David says a motion might be a good idea, but you might not have to. David says there's not funding for estranged students. But there is some funding from the SU but that might be difficult.

Cerelie is asking how the SU can support sports club. She mentions that communications were very confusing. Room bookings were open but then they were told that indoor sports were told that we weren't allowed to go on. A lot of people are very unhappy that the SU isn't allowing indoors sports to go ahead.

David is asking if it's from room bookings. Cerelie says no, it's from Grace and there's been communication to Sarah. Grace said no because if there's a spike of cases from indoor sports societies it looks bad but this is causing issues because sports teams were under the impression they could play indoors.

David says as the SU we are independent says we can make different calls than the school. But David wants to look into this more, and see if we can get the some new answers.

Ellie says regarding room bookings, it's because they opened on Tuesday and on the Thursday Tier 2 was announced. Bucks is trying to make a national guidance despite there being different guidance for different areas. Until the government publishes guidance that follows individual sports bodies we can't commit to saying you can play in door sports. Ellie says it's unfair on students but Bucks is trying to enforce a national rule book. An entire sports team has had three positive cases for playing a game in door. The decision has been made on the basis of the government.

Ellie says she understands how frustrating this must be for Cerelie and they are looking to review it but this decision was made on the back of Tier 2 guidance.

Cerelie says she understands, but if the rules were changed in regard to Tier 2 that should have been communicated clearer.

Ellie's looking into reviewing the swimming guidance because she appreciated they are frustrating

Ed says he's working on European students at SU, when the UK leaves the EU they'll have to get visa unless they fill out a form that will exempt them from that. A lot of students know this but they don't know how to do. It might be worth sending out information to any European students. LSE expects international students to come back in lent term but that's unlikely to happen, so Ed thinks he needs to reach out to students regarding this visa issue. He wants students to have a bit more info regarding their student status in the UK. LSE really expects Lent Term will be in person.

David expects the policy that Lent term will be optional in person, but mainly online. But this is all TBC.

Ed asks what will become of January and Summer exams.

David says the school is writing their policy now. Bali and David are working on getting students in the room whilst the decisions are being made. LSE won't make a statement till they have to. A lot of incoming students have fallen into the trap of paying all their rent up-front. A lot of students are trying to get out of their clauses. This is something else he's looking at.

David says Ed could work with his staff liaison to draw a statement.

Laura says she's happy to have a separate conversation with Ed about the issues of halls contracts.

Ellie Cottrell, says the only thing in her department she's been struggling with is that in certain class rooms that there's only two speakers at the side, so students at the back can't hear any questions being asked. The Law Department is using lecture capture from last year and adding an hour. The audio on this is bad on these and they are un-engaging and not design for online learning. Law has closed their feedback survey. There's an open letter going round.

David says the SU can support, we can speak to people senior at the school centrally. If there's policies that are being ignored - that's not great. David says if an email if Sabbs help

Ellie C says she's been really busy. She's focusing on student representation on the management committee, the environmental sustainability committee and the catering and estates working groups. She's also been an observer on the investment committee. She's also working on small project, such as analysis on divestment. Students want divestment, but no ones done the analysis if LSE's new plan will lead to divestment. She's looking at encouraging plant based diets and possibly replacing the plastic cups. There's a few small project if people want to help Ellie would appreciate that. Looking at putting reusable pads in fresher's packs. Ellie says she's thinking about putting a special beer in the tuns, which would encourage sustainability.

## **Actions**

**All Officers:** Get more clarity on this far right christian group and look to ban them on campus/speak out them.

**Ellie/SU Team:** Communicate to all sports team the rationale of banning in-door sports.

**Sabbs:** Pick up with people at the school to communicate Visa issues.

**Ed:** Work with staff liaison to draw up a statement about rent contracts.

**Laura:** Meet up with Ed to talk about Rent Contracts from halls.

**David:** Speak to people centrally at the university regarding ignoring policies on lecture capture.

**Ellie:** Send a list of projects to the Exe Group Chat.

**Campaigns Team:** Email Ellie to see if any additional help is needed.

## 5) Work Updates Sabbs

David says his big priority for students is trying to understand what it's like at the moment. He's doing that through the relevant school committees. He's trying to get students into these committees so he can champion their lived experiences. Another big priority is around our trustee board and getting good governance. David working closely with Laura on the sexual misconduct work. David working with the BLM group, and lobbying the school to make more conscious decisions around race equity.

Bali says their calendar is completely full of steering groups and committees. Working on the academic misconduct panels. Working on reforming assessment procedures and exceptional circumstances procedures. Working on the reform of LSE100 to be relaunched next year. The creation of the student education panel, another forum for which students to give feedback. Lobbying for lent term online teaching to be more confirmed and flexible for students. For January assessments there's some good initial results, but they've been sworn to secrecy.

Ellie C asks Bali when the exam format will be confirmed. Bali says as far as they're aware they should have submitted their form of assessment.

Laura says she's been working on sexual violence, two big wins. Students can access the council service within 24 hours and male, non-binary victims can get sessions on sexual violence. Working on the nursery campaign, we have had about 500 respondents to the survey. Now the lobbying begins. Ellie C asks comparatively speaking how is cost effective in regards to sending kids to a private nursery. Laura says staff have a salary sacrifice scheme which makes it more affordable, students used to get 50% off but they don't. Laura is trying to collate students concerns with halls right now too.

Ellie D has been working on harm reduction. Agreed a partnership on insight on mental health and alcohol and drugs. It can be a private therapy session or a group therapy session. Should be up and running in the next few weeks. Stop Tops providing tops to stop drink spiking, so they're doing a pilot with us. So we can be pioneer for how we can be the best for harm reduction to alcohol. Ellie is working on the possibility of substance free housing to see whether or not there's a demand for that. Working on an art showcase with the creative showcase. We're going to put into the ground work to sort that out.