

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 10th March 2021, 12pm BST

**Apologies:** Sarah Gerwens

**In attendance:** David Gordon, Ellie Duplock, Ceri Doyle, Edouard Panciulo, Isra Saker, Thiago Pontes, Freya Govus, Jit Patel, Morgan Fairless

The meeting was **not quorate**, so decisions are not binding.

### **1. Matters arising from last meeting**

David approved the minutes from the previous meeting and requested an update on last month's actions. Freya confirmed that the term ends in June for all officers, including those elected in Michaelmas Term. Bali and Laura were not present to give an update on communications to students about LSE services, however Isra mentioned that an email was sent out by Bali and Dilly Fung on the student support package for the upcoming assessment period.

**Action:** Freya to follow up with Laura to get the service's update.

### **2. Exec committee governance point**

David updated the committee on the proposed changes to the Union's Articles of Association, on which students can cast a proxy vote at the moment. The Articles of Association refer to LSESU's constitution and govern how the SU operates. He informed the committee that the special resolution includes the removal of the cap on the number of part-time officers that can sit on the Exec Committee. David also mentioned the proposal to bring more professional expertise onto the Trustee Board by increasing the number of external Trustees. He reminded members that voting was now open, and asked for the help of officers to encourage students to vote to make sure the turnout requirement was met.

In response to Isra, Freya said she saw no reason why updates on voter turnout for the special resolution wouldn't be permitted.

### **3. General discussion**

Jit raised ongoing concerns about LSE's assessment policy, noting the disparity across departments relating to short exams. He stated that only some departments have extended the 3 hours given for exams to 24 hours, and that a blanket policy should be introduced. Isra stated that a blanket 24 format for exams would not be possible for subjects like History. David agreed that consistency was desirable but stressed the difficulties of implementing a uniform policy. He suggested that course reps were in the best position to shape decisions about exam formats. He also

acknowledged that not much can be done this far down the line. Edouard raised a point about exams taking place across different time zones. David concluded that there is always going to be difficulties with online exams, but that the work of elected officers means that students are in a better position than last year.

Isra brought up the anger and upset from students about the school's decision to cancel graduation. David mentioned that there was an SMC meeting next week, and gave reassurance that the SU had made its position on the matter very clear. He acknowledged that it was difficult for the school to commit to anything given that the government road map is not set in stone, but reaffirmed that the school should give a guarantee to students that an in-person graduation will take place at some point.

Edouard expressed disappointment about the way the news was communicated to students. David agreed that the school's delivery was regrettable and explained that the email had not passed through comms beforehand. Isra asked about graduation plans for Masters students, and mentioned that current masters students had not received any information. David responded that those who graduated from a Masters in the last six months will be included in online celebrations, and that decisions are still being made about the graduation of current Masters students.

#### **4. Covid Update**

Freya updated the committee on the SU's roadmap for reopening, however she emphasised that it was very much subject to change.

#### **Action Points:**

- **Action:** Freya to follow up with Laura to get the service's update.