

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 18th February 2021, 12pm BST

In attendance: David Gordon, Laura Godard, Jay Crosbie, Ellie Cottrell, Sumaya Osman, Thiago Pontes, Riccardo Jaede, Jit Patel, Bali Birch-Lee and Alice.

Apologies: Sarah Gerwin

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

1) Matters Arising from Last Meeting

To change an officer's title it'll need to be done via a UGM - so if there's appetite there's potential for an UGM to propose a name change for the Disabled Officer.

2) General Updates

Ellie Cottrell says that students are asking about graduation and if there's more of an update about the potential plans and what the next steps are. David rose this with SMC yesterday, they're opening the discussion up again — which is a positive step. They're going to send some communications out about what they're planning which should go out today. SU Comms is going out tomorrow with a petition to hold them to account. Laura says that the #LSEForgottenStudents campaign is including the campaign around graduation. There's going to be a website for this campaign so we can direct students to the website.

Sumaya asks for an update on the national tuition fee refund campaign. David says that the national campaign will provide pressure to ensure every student in HE gets a refund, and that the local campaign is there to put continue pressure on LSE to show student dissatisfaction. David says it'd be great to see PTOs get involved but appreciate how busy it is. Sumaya asks what the relationship between university Sabbs and the campaign. David has explained that he's submitted a motion to NUS to get them to take a stance on the issue. David is meeting with the VP of HE NUS and he's expecting a little push back. In terms of being joined up - at the moment there's 20 SUs joined up with a lot more due to confirm in the next few weeks. There's an effort to get the NUS to head up this campaign. There's confidence that if the national campaign gets press attention there would be movement on it.

Ellie Cottrell asks about academics and their job security. Ellie asks how the money isn't going to be pooled from their wages to refund students. David says the campaign has acknowledged this and its part of their policy recommendations to ensure that Government provides the bailout to students to prevent universities going bankrupt. David states that the point of the campaign is to work collaboratively with universities.

Sumaya asks about the surveillance within exams and is that still going ahead. Bali says that they've rejected that proposal after a paper was presented to academic board.

Laura also quickly updates about halls. LSE was going to retroactively charge students £25 a week for leaving their belongings in their rooms. Laura's been campaigning for senior management to drop this, as they were the ones who decided it. Andrew Young has dropped the charge as of Sunday just past, this is down to Laura's excellent internal campaigning and lobbying efforts.

Alice is asking for an update for the election that's happening in Lent Term, as there's some work Alice is undertaking and doesn't want it getting lost in the transition. David says that PTO Terms finish at the end of June — so you'll be able to complete your projects. Riccardo wants to know how that will work for the GTA Officer as he was elected in a slightly different capacity.

David, to the best of his knowledge, doesn't quite know but will endeavour to find out.

Ellie asks how many students know about inclusion plans and are they included in the student support map and can we communicate this students. David says that they are in the support map, but is aware that this is a chronic issue that the school fails to communicate its services. Bali and Morgan are working to find ways for the school to communicate these better. Riccardo mentions that GTAs aren't trained how to help their students with inclusion plan and offers any support he can on the issue.

Riccardo says that the SSO letters were sent out to PHD students that their funding was being extended. But last week 20 people got letters stating there had been a miscommunication and now one student who thought they had one more year of funding only has 5 more weeks left. We need to get them legal advice as LSE is not being particularly cooperative. But it's thrown some students in serious financial problems. David says that's awful and he's going to bring it to Liaison Group to get senior management to act on this.

ACTION: Next Exec Committee to comment on GTA Rep/other Michaelmas Term Reps what their term looks like and how long they have in office.

ACTION: Bali and Laura to communicate to students about the services provided by LSE.