**AGM Minutes**

**Welcome and apologies**

The Union President, Emily Harrison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Emily confirmed that the meeting was quorate based on those present in the room and registered online for proxy voting.

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 29 November 2018 were approved –

For: 122 Against: 3 Abstain: 119

**Annual reports**

Receipt of Consolidated Accounts and Trustee Report for the year ending 31 July 2019 and approval of affiliations 2019-20.

The Report and Accounts were received –

For: 123 Against: 5 Abstain: 99

**Appointment of auditors**

The continuation of the appointment of the auditors was approved –

For: 101 Against: 4 Abstain: 117

**Resolution 1: Political Expenditure**

The Resolution of Political Expenditure was passed –

For: 89 Against: 57 Abstain: 83

**Resolution 2: Should SUSU support the UCU Strike Action?**

Emily Harrison introduced this topic by summarizing the events that have happened prior to the AGM, these included inviting UCU Representatives to speak to students at a Q and A. The vote at the AGM today will decide whether the Students’ Union supports the Strike Action, this will involve providing our rooms and resources, if they are needed for teach-outs or creating materials.

Question: If it is a no, will the Union be actively against the Strike Action? Emily confirmed that there are no plans to be actively against the Strike Action.

Question: How will a vote not to support the Strike Action effect PG students and our relationships with them? Emily clarified for other members of the audience that the Strike Action will affect our Postgrad students, certainly as many have a dual status as staff at the university they will be involved in the Strike Action. Emily asked a member of the audience to confirm some of the issues that are unique to postgraduate students and why they are supporting the action. They confirmed that students are facing increasing workload and expectations on them while their career path for the future is not guaranteed. They face more difficulty with getting mortgages and supporting themselves financially.

After this summary, Emily confirmed that we will still be advocating for PG students issues regardless of the outcome of the AGM vote as we are here to represent them as students, rather than as UCU members.

Question: If SUSU supports the strike action, will this lead to a student call for compensation and would SUSU advocate for that on their behalf? Emily confirmed that SUSU supported the previous UCU Strike Action and advocated for something to formally happen with the salaries that would not be paid. The amount per person was so small that it was felt that a refund wasn’t fair, especially as this benefit would differ per person depending on how they paid for their degree. The surplus therefore went into a student experience pot, this has be spent on improving facilities in the library, increasing the number of books, improving the air conditioning in buildings where the environment was poor and putting on the WSA shuttle bus. Emily said that there may be calls for refunds again and that SUSU could support this call but that it was not likely to be approved, as with the previous year, it is more likely to go to a student experience pot again.

Question: Campaigning for refunds may undermine the strike action as the promise for a refund may lead to apathy among students, which would not cause as much disruption for the University?

Emily confirmed that this vote is only on supporting the strike action and not for anything further, she was only providing background on what happened last year. This vote doesn’t make any conditions for what happens after and we will deal with it as it comes up.

The Resolution for whether SUSU should support the UCU Strike Action was approved -

For: 179 Against: 80 Abstain: 19

The result of the vote is that SUSU’s official stance is to support the planned UCU Strike Action due to take place between November 25 and December 4 2019.

**Petition 1: Green New Deal – To support the campaign and their demands.**

Emily explained the outcomes that a petition usually has if it is successful, these are for an All Student Vote to take place, for the contents of the petition to be taken to an emergency Union Senate Meeting, or an Extraodinary General Meeting (EGM). As the Annual General Meeting was due to take place in the weeks following the petition, we decided to add it to the agenda today.

The contents of the petition was received separately by students who have been lobbying for changes, but Emily confirmed that she has already been working with the university on the statement for the Green New Charter as part of her role as Union President. This Charter was released yesterday and can be found on the website and social media. This petition does still give SUSU a fuller mandate to lobby the University and Emily opened up to questions from the audience.

Question: What does this mean practically and if approved, does the union have to be against anything that comes up?

The statement that came out yesterday goes into detail on the sustainability policy, which the University didn’t have previously. Strategy is starting to be formed but it is still at the research stage and Emily is very involved. We will be setting up a student sustainability forum, also the Sustainability Spotlight on 4 December, which will be the first opportunity for students to voice concerns. The main mechanism for students to be involved and engage in the strategy will be through these forums going forward.

Question: If it passes, does this mean that the union will have to lobby the university to slash the funding for research across departments if they are funded by arms companies?

Emily confirmed that this mandate would mean that the university will need to review the funding that is brought in but it doesn’t demand how that happens and what is put in place in the interim.

There was some debate within the audience around the funding that the university receives and how this may impact the quality of research and that the university will need to try and seek more environmentally friendly sources of funding income. At the moment, there is no timeline for that to be achieved and so this can be done in a way that doesn’t impact the quality of research at the University.

The union will continue to work with the University to support this and any issues around implementing this will be shared with students in a way that allows them to engage with it.

Emily also confirmed that a research project has been started that will detail the impact and the predicted timelines for this kind of divestment. Emily also said that there is a mandate from the petition to be more transparent and that is likely to come first. Also, that the sustainability actions will continue even if it was not approved, it just gives the mandate to lobby for the additional items.

Supporting the petition and its demands was approved –

For: 181 Against: 45 Abstain: 27

**AOB**

There was no further business raised and so the Annual General Meeting was officially closed and the Making Change Summit commenced.

**Making Change Summit Minutes**

**Review of minutes from the previous meeting**

Emily pointed to the minutes of the previous meeting and said that any queries can go to her at president@susu.org

**Topic 1: UK General Election**

Emily confirmed that SUSU does not have any political opinion; we remain neutral and unbiased to any political party but we do have societies for political parties that can do their own activities for campaigning if they wish. The activities that SUSU will do include; social media campaigns for registering to vote, attending Freshers events and halls BBQs to encourage registering to vote, putting out a video on why it’s important to vote, also a video coming up on FAQs for the general election, encouraging postal and proxy vote as the date of the election is around the time a lot of students will going home, and after the deadline for registering we will move onto encouraging voting. We will include hustings for candidates on 2, 3 and 5 December 6:30 to 7:30pm and this is open to staff as well as students, so far 8 candidates have confirmed they will attend these. The Hustings are a free event and the Eventbrite is out now.

Question: Is SUSU doing anything for WSA campus, Winchester constituency? Emily confirmed that they had reached out to Winchester University Students’ Union to collaborate and they have already arranged a debate so we notified by email and social media all the WSA students that this was happening.

The results will be shared live in The Bridge. As well as The Bridge, SUSU media are doing live coverage all night, this is a collaborative effort from all of them.

**Topic 2: What action can the Students’ Union take to tackle misconduct and ensure students feel safe and respected during their time at University?**

Led by Laura Barr our VP Welfare and Community, who confirmed that this was linked to the code of conduct for volunteers that is being written at the moment. This Code of Conduct will cover our expectations from them and what they should expect from SUSU. We are also working on approving a new Expect Respect Agreement, and this discussion today is a chance to open it up to you on what you think SUSU should include.

Question: Will it relay direct consequences for actions, or is it more like guidelines? Laura confirmed that the agreement will fall in line with disciplinary processes that we have in place already. They won’t give specific detail of dos and don’ts but will explicitly state what we expect from our volunteers, which haven’t had up until now. We are interested in education as well within discipline, which includes our WIDE training for Clubs and Societies, which is compulsory.

Question: Where will students be able to find it when it comes out? We’re currently in the process of writing it and this will involve consultation. We also need to have a discussion on whether this is an opt in statement or whether you automatically sign up before it is shared publically.

Question: What is the industry standard and what is special about this? Also, why don’t we already have something like this in place? Laura confirmed that other unions already have compulsory training, but we are interested in our reaction to things that happen and what our limitations are and what we can do.

We have a report and support tool with the University already to ensure a smoother process and increase advocacy, this doesn’t automatically mean that the University knows what is reported by there is the option for students to consent for us to work together

Question: What does the University think, are they supportive? We have a positive relationship with the University and they are supportive.

Question: Can the consequences of actions effect University life as well as Union life if information is shared with the university? Laura confirmed that this depends on the situation. When you enroll at University you sign up to the Student Charter and this covers the expectations as a student. Fiona is looking at what these expectations are and what other universities have, making this more visible and useful. In the future, we are looking to fold this into the work on the Code of Conduct and Expect Respect Agreement work so it becomes the first thing students see and hopefully remember when they join.

Question: How long will it take? Laura confirmed that it will probably be completed in the second semester.

**AOB**

Question: Could we discuss moving the AGM to not be on a Thursday, maybe on a Wednesday? A member of the audience raised the issue around sports on a Wednesday and that there is no good time, you are always cutting out a group of students. Emily said that this could be discussed but that student apathy was a factor as well, and could we have a discussion on the best ways to encourage more engagement. SUSU would like to know what better looks like to students so that we can improve but we don’t always receive feedback that allows us to make those changes.

Question: Would it help to get lecturers involved in helping?

It was raised in the audience that before going to Lecturers, our elected reps can help but that details about the Union Senate meetings and the AGM haven’t been mentioned by our reps to students. Emily confirmed that this information did go out to reps by Jo Lisney our VP Education and Democracy.

Question: What is discussed at the AGM has a factor, this year was light on debate and was mostly admin, more discussion opportunities would help. Could we do a week leading up to the AGM that each night covers a different aspect to get the debate started? SUSU could hold these in the stags, have drinks deals, make it more engaging? If we make a week of it we can get students to send ideas in advance and create the environment for debate by extending the period.

It was also raised that there is an issue around being given the chance to vote in advance and that the people in the room can’t sway the vote.

Question: How to engage the disengaged could start with our elected officers and reps as they aren’t here but they should be engaged as they hold a role? Emily confirmed that Jo was working on a Jury Duty system to encourage groups of students to attend our key meeting, also we are working on officer accountability so that we are now tracking attendance for required meetings.

Laura added that there is a lot of free labour that comes from being an elected officer and we don’t want to put it all on the officers to do more than they do already. Jo included that a lot volunteers are second or third years so the stress levels increase for their degrees. We are looking to invite Student Officers and if they don’t attend or give apologies we can start to find out what the barriers are.

One of the main concerns is the apathy, and students do know that the AGM and Senate meetings are happening but they still do not engage, which is often the same with SUSU Elections. There is a lot of work on the ground to make sure they know about the events but it’s about converting that to engagement. Emily said that we need to work on reinforcing that it is an important role and some of this will be on improving accountability and the expectations for the role. Also clarifying our support processes.

Question: Is this is problem across the country or is this a SUSU issue? Emily confirmed that this is not just SUSU, recently the Sabbatical Officers went on Union visits and apathy is everywhere. We are currently above the sector average for voter turnout, we have around 20% turnout but the average is 11%.

Question: What can we do to carry this conversation forward?

Emily told everyone that the Sabbatical team is always here and so this conversation or any ideas students have about increasing engagement can be raised directly, but we will also look at putting it on the agenda for the next Union Senate meeting. We’ll also look at organizing a big event that will engage more people in the discussion later in the year.

ACTION: To put this discussion as a point on the next Union Senate agenda. To email all students with the date of that meeting and to put on a few events for wider discussion.

There was no further business raised and so the meeting was closed.