

Meeting: COUNCIL/SENATE/STUDENTS' UNION COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday 6 November 2018 at 2.15pm

Venue: 4 West Boardroom

Present:	Professor P Lambert (Interim Chair)	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching)
	Miss E Alcock	President, Students' Union (SU)
	Mr B Baines	Student Representative
	Mr J Kitchen	Education Officer, SU
	Mr J Mifsud	Student Representative
	Mr B Palmer	Student Representative
	Ms K Robinson	Elected by Council
	Dr J Troyer	Elected by Senate
In Attendance:	Dr C Harris	Secretary
	Dr J Harris	Director of Academic Registry
	Professor A Heath	Academic Director, CLT
	Mr A McLaughlin	Chief Executive, SU
	Mr A Payne	Director of Student Services
	Miss Kimberley Pickett-Mcatakney	Activities Officer, SU (for minute no. 1166(4))
Apologies:	Professor C Mitchell	Elected by Senate

ACTION

1162. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the 2018/19 session. The membership and terms of reference of the Committee, as detailed in Paper CSSU18/19-001, were noted.

1163. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair advised that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2018 (Paper CSSU18/19-002) had been queried at Senate and he had confirmed at that meeting that minute 1158(2) was not correct, that lecturers could record lectures but did not have to use Panopto. They were not being recorded without their knowledge or consent. A new lecture capture booking tool for ReView (Panopto) is being developed which will give more flexibility and be easier to use.

It was noted that this is covered in clause 22.4(h) of the Intellectual Property Policy which states "The University has a statutory obligation to make reasonable adjustments in respect of providing equal treatment and equal access to educational opportunity for all students regardless of their disability status. Each staff member acknowledges the right of the University to permit students who have a disability as defined in the Equality Act 2010 to record lectures and other presentations for this purpose and authorises such recordings. In such

circumstances the lecturer or presenter will be informed that the lecture or presentation is being recorded, the student may use the recording only for the purpose of personal study and (for the avoidance of doubt) copyright in the content of the lecture or presentation shall be the property of the lecturer or presenter delivering it."

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2018 (Paper CSSU18/19-002) were APPROVED as a correct record of the proceedings, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 1158(2)

It was reported that ~~with the introduction of the a~~ new version of Panopto ~~there would be automatic recording of lectures with no option for this to be disabled, and this~~ would be introduced in September 2018, ***which would give more flexibility.***

1164. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 1158(1)

Study Space

The Chair advised that a Study Space Group would be formed shortly.

Mandatory Printing

The Chair confirmed that there had been no follow up as yet

Supervision

The Director of Student Services advised that a Health & Wellbeing Action Plan was being developed by a Steering Group including The SU President, Community Officer and Deputy Chief Executive. A Health & Wellbeing Project Manager covering staff and student mental health would be appointed. It was likely that a partnership application to the Office for Students would be made that week for mental health project funding.

Sustainability

The SU Activities Officer was producing a map of drinking fountains.

1165. UPDATE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING ISSUES

The Committee received an update from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching) on learning and teaching issues. He reported that admissions were more challenging with different demographics, degree apprenticeship opportunities and online degrees. Modern Languages were in decline across the country due to the education policy in schools and colleges but the Department of Psychology could have taken twice as many students. The Open Days had been more effective.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching) went on to talk about the NSS rankings where the University was ranked lower than previous years, though above the sector average. The UCU strike had affected uptake and results and in some areas such as assessment and feedback the ratings had been poor. Departments had been encouraged to develop reactive action plans following the NSS and PTES outcomes to incorporate localised staff and student views. PTES would change to an NSS style survey. The subject level TEF would be brought in

from the calendar year 2020 and a TEF readiness exercise would be organised for Semester 2 2019.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching) talked about Curriculum Transformation stating that the vanguard programmes in the departments of Health, Chemical Engineering and Biology had been outstanding. Chemical Engineering and the MSc in Biosciences would be launched in 2019. In 2020 some PGT would be launched and all others in 2021. He mentioned that the most important lesson was to engage staff and students as early as possible.

After further discussion the report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching) was NOTED.

1166. STUDENTS' UNION BUSINESS

(1) Top Ten Issues: Overview for 2018/19

The SU President introduced Paper CSSU18/19-003, which summarised the Top Ten issues which had been agreed as the key priorities for the SU for the year ahead. She explained that this was the ninth year of the Top Ten and it had proved to be a useful tool for partnership working with the University.

It was queried whether the shadowing scheme for students and councillors was still running and suggested that 'learning walks' to focus on one aspect may work well.

It was noted that the issues raised gave good breadth and coverage and that some were very complex. They would be a priority for ULTQC.

AGREED that the Students' Union Top Ten issues, as detailed in Paper CSSU18/19-003, be noted.

(2) Bus Travel

The SU President briefly explained the issues with bus travel, detailed in Paper CSSU18/19-004, covering the route changes, increased prices, roadworks and increased school pupil usage. These had all led to significant queues and issues over safety of and accessibility for bus users. Following The SU's significant work lobbying and encouraging students to feedback First had agreed to The SU's proposed changes to the U1 route (subject to Traffic Commission approval) which would be implemented on 6 January 2019. Issues with the U2 route, which disadvantaged students living further away, remained.

During discussion the following points were made:

- The SU President stated that she would have preferred University support at an earlier stage but going forward there was now a better understanding that First and the University were co-dependent and a Bus User Group had been set up;
- The current Clean Air Zone consultation for Bath would affect the routes and The SU proposal was for 8 double decker buses on

the U1 route, which would be clean in the city centre. The large capacity bendy buses on the U1X route were more polluting;

- First had taken more buses and drivers from across the south-west as they found it hard to recruit to Bath as the cost of living was high. A new recruitment drive was ongoing;
- The frequency of buses on the U2 route needed to be increased from the current level of one every 15 or 20 minutes.

The Chair thanked The SU President for her work on bus issues and said that it had been a well led campaign channelling the views of students and councillors and that was the reason that progress had been made.

AGREED to formally recognise the issues that had occurred with bus travel to and from campus this academic year and that the University to work with The SU and First to create solutions in improving the U2 service.

(3) The Edge Restructure

The SU Activities Officer attended for this item, the Edge restructure, detailed in Paper CSSU18/19-006. The Chair advised that he had contacted the Director of Arts, who had stated that the paper was inaccurate.

The SU Activities Officer explained that The SU had become a stakeholder in the Edge with 28 groups and 2000 students using the facilities, equivalent to about 80% of its usage. The SU had ensured that the relationship with the Edge was good by communicating and providing feedback. They felt that after years of challenges the past year 2017/18 had been very good with Edge staff having a knowledge of the student societies and 2 weekly conversations taking place.

The SU Activities Officer stated that the restructure of the Edge over the summer, with different staff, operations and communication had resulted in poor communication and issues not being resolved. There had been no engagement with student users over the restructure. The SU wished to regain communication and the relationship with the Edge.

During discussion the following points were made:

- The restructure had been to combine the Edge operations and arts teams;
- The closure of the Box Office would make it difficult to access rooms after 5pm; previously on Sundays when the Box Office was closed access was obtained from the Edge Security staff;
- The Edge was holding a consultation the following day to gain student feedback but The SU stated that this was delayed and that the decisions had already been made;
- The SU was concerned that the changes were to boost research over the arts and to reduce student use to increase revenue;
- The lack of a forum to discuss the student experience was discussed and supported by the Committee.

ACTION

The Chair summarised:

- There was a lack of clarity of the rationale of the restructure;
- There had been a breakdown of communications
- There had been no student input into the consultation;
- The timing of when students were consulted should be meaningful.

AGREED that the Chair would chair a meeting between The SU and the Director of Arts and report back to the next meeting.

CHAIR

(4) Local Elections

The SU Education Officer introduced Paper CSSU18/19-005 explaining that there was low student engagement with local elections and that The SU planned to encourage students to engage in local democracy.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- It was felt that some local councillors did not canvas for residents' votes and were 'anti-student';
- There may be privacy issues to consider;
- Suggestions were made to increase student involvement:
 - The University could send letters on the topic to all 17,000 students;
 - Social media or classroom discussions on the importance of voting would have more impact;
 - A joint video featuring The SU President and the VC;
 - Global citizenship was included within Curriculum Transformation;
 - Foyer displays in the Library reached many students;
 - Visuals around campus such as posters or someone wearing a sandwich board;
 - Facilitating political parties canvassing or distributing leaflets on campus;
- It was noted that this would support the obligation under the Prevent Duty to promote democracy;
- Home students were eligible to vote twice in local elections (at home and at University). The eligibility of Overseas students would be checked;
- The likely date of local elections was 2 May which was during the University holiday period so students could be encouraged to apply for a postal vote;
- This would be an opportunity to increase involvement with the local community.

SUPRES

The Recommendations were AGREED:

- The University to support The SU events and activities in encouraging voter registration and active citizenship;

ACTION

- The University to employ its own actions to encourage voter registration and active citizenship through emailing students, providing content on the University website, using social media and running events connecting students to councillors and candidates;
- The University to facilitate canvassing students by candidates in University Managed Accommodation

AGREED that this was an exciting paper and ideas were requested for the next meeting.

ALL

The SU President requested an update on town/gown.

CHAIR

1167. DATES OF MEETINGS

The programme of meetings for 2018/19 was noted as being as follows:

- Thursday 6 December 2018 at 2.15pm
- Thursday 28 February 2019 at 10.15am
- Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 2.15pm

The meeting concluded at 3.55pm.