

**HUU Welfare & Community Zone**

**Minutes from meeting held on 8th November 2013 at 18.20 in Meeting Room 1**

**Attendance**

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| **Name**  | **Role**  |
| Brittany Tomlinson | Vice President Welfare & Community (VPWC) |
| Babz Okerenta | Chair BAME Students’ Committee |
| Stephanie Brumpton | Chair Disabled Students’ Committee |
| Emily Tarff | Chair Women’s Committee |
| Adil Qureshi | Chair LGBT+ Students’ Committee (Secretary of Zone) |
| Jasmine Raw | Chair Advice Centre Volunteer Committee |
| Nathan Gregory  | Chair Community Reps (Chair of Zone) |
| Thom Rawlinson  | Councillor of Scrutiny (TR) |
| Padraig Curran | Councillor of Scrutiny (PC) |

**Also present**

Stephanie Broun, Student

Rachel Suthenland, Student

Liam Crozier, Student

Juliet Bradley – Watson, Women’s Committee Member

Jasmin Poxon, Student,

Grace Woods, Editor of The Hullfire

George Allen, Student,

Shaki Obaolina, Student

Rihannon Davis,

Louise Sowerby, Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee

Chubike Okido, Chair ISA

1. **Apologies**

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| Adam Fitton | Chair LINKS |

1. **Minutes of previous meeting**
2. **Matters arising (update on action points from previous meeting)**
3. **Motions**
* Chair of the zone explains how the procedure of this meeting will go. Chair also explains that there is a one strike policy the public gallery in this meeting or so.
* The chair of zone explains that we are meeting to talk about a motion of no-confidence that have been bought under the welfare and community zone under standing orders 5002 under section 11 subsection 3, were a member of the sound can pass propose a motion of no confidence against another member of the zone. The motion itself has to be ratified at union Council on the 18th November 2013 if it passes through the zone.
* The chair of zone, also brought up that anyone can propose motions. Going to standing order 8003, from council, which has the procedure that the chief Exec has suggested that we follow. Which states in section 28, subsection A, that speech for the motions can be proposed by the proposer, second or someone that the proposer asked as long as the chair of zone has been notified.
* The zone committee deliberated on if we find it appropriate for someone else speak on this motion beside the proposer. The zone agreed that the proposer may ask someone else to argue for the motion.
	1. **Motions of Caution/censure/no confidence**
* The chair of the zone outlines that this is a motion no-confidence brought against the Chair Woman committee by Chair LGBT+.
* The Chair of Zone explains how the voting procedure will work by being a secret ballot were free options of: for the motion, against the motion, Ascension.

**Argument for the motion**

* Speech is giving by (Louise Sowerby) Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee
* As Women’s Committee we have a vital obligation to represent and support female students on campus. However, for the last 6 weeks this obligation has not been fulfilled by the Chair of Women’s Committee. Throughout 6 weeks the problems with the Chair of Women’s Committee have become serve and there has been strong unwillingness to rectify the problems which have arisen. The three major issues which have prevented Women’s Committee from functioning are the following:
* Communication and management
* Offensive and hurtful behaviour
* Confidentiality
* These three issues have reoccurred over the last six weeks even though informal guidance has been given. The Chair of Women’s Committee has chosen to resolve these issues within women’s committee by simply ignoring them. By not taking responsibility for these issues she has alienated, offended and isolated members of the executive.
* **Confidentiality** - The chair’s role is to ensure a safe space for female students this has not been done efficiently. She has told executive members while in her position sensitive information (including names) regarding female students. She has used confidential information to support and justify her offensive and hurtful behaviour. For example telling executive member’s the names of women who agree with her views. This information was given to her in office hours and in confidence.
* **Offensive and hurtful behaviour** – The Chair behaviour towards members of the executive has lead to 3 members resigning due to how stressful and tiring the situation has been. The Chair has also miss represented the committee and offended members of staff with her attitude. For example she said inappropriate things to a bouncer at asylum. She has offended Imogen with her ignorance and lack of understanding. She has also made rude comments about class and has openly claimed that other members of the executive agree with her comments about Imogen Martin.
* This type of behaviour is not acceptable and although it stems from ignorance it is not appropriate for a Chair to have these views as she is meant to represent ALL female students.
* **Communication and management behaviour** - The Chair has shown an inability to communicate effectively with the committee. Executive members feel that she has given false information and forcibly take over executive members roles. This has been belittling as it suggests the Chair does not have trust in other member’s abilities. For example before summer the executive had a meeting to discuss plans for the year. In this meeting it was voted by the majority of executive members that they did not want to do Reclaim the Night. The campaign officer brought many ideas forward and throughout summer managed to communicate with the rest of the executive and took everyone’s opinions on board. In contrast the Chair did not do this, instead she continued to plan Reclaim the night knowing that the rest of the executive had voted against it.
* On the 29th July the Chair produced a document called “year long plan” in this she had planned campaigns without the rest of the executive. Such as “it’s a dress not a yes” and “love your body day around the same time as the AU naked calendar” Both of these campaigns we strongly disapproved of by the other members of the executive during summer. This shows her lack of team work skills and shows that she does not value other member’s opinions as she chose to continue planning events behind the executives back.
* Furthermore the Chair is unable to delegate work effectively as she would rather take over other roles. She has also kept information deliberately away from the executive, for example she planned a social with labour club and film soc and did not invite any other members of the executive although Women’s Committee were co – hosting the event.
* This issue of communication means that she is unable to fulfil the role as Chair as her communication with women on campus, staff members and the executive is inaccurate and therefore damaging for Women’s Committee.
* The chair of zone explains that the chair women’s may asked up to two questions.
* Chair zone explains to Zone members that we are here to deliberate and discuss whether the chair women’s committee can do her job effectively as stated in her standing orders only.
* Question from Chair Women’s Committee asks firstly, why has the women’s is active committee been unwilling to meet with me when she recognises that there are issues within the committee. Chair Women’s Committee states that just proves that she has tried to talk to her exact on these issues which is to the Zone members.
* The rebuttal given by Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee, she has tried to organise a meeting with chair women’s via Facebook and text messages about these issues and that two weeks ago the chair women’s said to her that she clearly did not want to discuss this issue in our executive meeting.
* Second question from chair women’s committee, why hasn’t the committee proposed any actual and the specific solutions to the problems to me.
* The rebuttal given by Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee, states that we have communicated with the chair women’s committee many times individually and that I and other member of the exact has spoken to you about these issues in your office many times. Also I spoken to privately about these issues so has three other members of the executive.
* Chair women’s state that the question has not been answered. No specific solutions was given.
* VPWC states that she gave the chair women’s advice on how she could improve, which was also given to her executive committee.
* Chair of zone explains that he attended a woman’s committee meeting. Because of the issues there would raise the motion and a member of the exec left. During this time chair women’s asked chair zone what do I need to do to improve.
* Chair of Zone then explains that each member of zone has one question that they may ask.
* Question from Councillor of Scrutiny (PC), to the message that was posted on the excessive page on Facebook. How many members of the exec responded to it?
* Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee explained that every member the exact reply to it but by talking to her privately about it.
* Question from VPWC, do you think excessive members dropping of committees is solely down to chair women’s or their other factors to Miley dropped out?
* Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee, replied by saying that it is down to the issues with the chair because this has made being on the exec stressful.
* Question from Councillor of Scrutiny (TR), how has the chair women’s changed the plans but campaigns. Whether campaigns that the exec decided whether all voted on?
* Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee explains that the original campaigns were all voted on in our committee meeting discussing what campaigns will be doing throughout the year. We decided that we did not want to do reclaim the night and we voted on this but this campaigns to go ahead.
* The point information: chair of zone asked for all of the women’s committees minutes from the point of them taking on the role. All that was given was draft copies of minutes but there are no official minutes yet for the meetings.
* Question from chair zone, which you say that all the issues with the committee is down to the chair women’s does members of the executive committee are at fault to.
* Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee explains that we all have a responsibility as the exec but most issues had been made because of the chair. We are unable to our job properly if the chair does not allow us to because we have the executive committee to no women to be doing because we are unable to communicate with her effectively.
* Question from Chair Women’s, explains that she took a personal week off from duties and gave her committee free pass to do. She asked why these tasks were not completed.
* Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee explains that in executive meeting we decided to cancel doing these events down to the lack of time, low turnout and the fact that the social sector had recently resigned at this point.
* Question from the public gallery, George Allen, asked if woman’s committee could provide any evidence of giving chair women’s pacific solutions to these issues.
* VPWC points out that she is aware it has been specially pointed out to chair women’s of how to resolve these issues by VPWC. VPWC sent chair women’s on the NUS liberation activism training and also she points out solutions was given to chair women’s by her executive committee orally.
* Question from public gallery, Stephanie Broun, is there any evidence to say that chair women’s has centralise power to herself.
* Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee explains that chair woman’s has planned to do reclaim the night even though the exact did not want to do this and also that the main discussions with the campaigns officer about campaigns being change without notifying the campaigns officer.

**Argument against motion**

* Speech is giving by Chair Women’s
* Chair women’s points out that she was never given specific solutions on how to fix problems that were presented by exec. I had only ever told what she has done wrong. She explained that she apologised and asked how she could fix it. She goes on to explain that she has not been given ABC approach to fixing the problems. This is why she believes it has gotten situation. Then she goes onto explain she is willing to communicate with her committee, which is proof off and that there has been a lack of unwillingness from the executive to communicate with chair women’s effectively. Chair women’s explain that she has been asking for help for weeks to VPWC, other members of the Zone and the executive. That there needs to be training given to chairs which would massively improve how they run their committees. Asked that there is a committee together pacific solution to problems in the future. Then she doesn’t point out that she has taken on board suggestions that the exc has given her such as changing the love your body campaign dates so that it does not conjunct with the AU calendar.
* Point of clarity: chair of zone points out that it’s your effectiveness of communication that that dispute here not whether you actually communicate with your executive committee.
* Chair Women’s except this.
* Point of Clarity: Chair of Zone, when it comes to training, the president, the manager membership services and the chair of zone all agreed that hate you has not provided effective training to all liberation campaigns. Training scheme has been devised and approved.
* Question from Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee, does the chair women’s so that she has communicated effectively with its active committee when it comes to delegating jobs?
* Chair Women’s explains that she has done our best to delegate jobs.
* Question from Fundraising Officer for Women’s Committee, why does the chair women’s feel that the executive committee has not given her pacific solutions when members of the executive have sat with chair women’s in her office and told her specifically that the executive problems with chair woman’s communication, management and delegation of tasks.
* Chair Women’s explains that the fundraising Officer only explain what problems was did not give chair women’s pacific solutions to them.
* Question from Chair BAME, is it your personal opinion that you are well enough to undertake your roles as defined by standing orders?
* Chair Women’s explains that she believes that she is healthy enough to undertake this role. Chair women’s believe that she is able capable of fulfilling her role.
* Question from VPWC, asked why women’s committee as not raised any money or had any open meetings. Is this down to issues with the executive or your health both?
* Chair Women’s states that is down to issues with communication with her exc as the plan was to have a bimonthly open meeting and executive meeting before fresher’s week started.
* Councillor of Scrutiny (TR) asked that under the standing order 5006 that governs woman’s committee does the chair woman’s believe that she has a filter role as outlined in section 2 which are the chair women’s aims.
* Chair Women’s believe that she has filled all the point of section 2 except for the point under subsection e.
* Question from Chair BAME, if this motion was defeated would they executive committee and chair women’s be able to work effectively together?
* Fundraising Officer for women’s committee said no.
* Chair women’s explains that they could if the executive committee could give specific answers to how she could approve.
* Question from public gallery, George Allen, could chair women’s explain how the lack of training has affected her role.
* Chair Women’s explains training will be beneficial to all chairs because it will explain how to communicate with their committees, how to communicate effectively, deal with disputes and disagreements if they do arise. Also the training would explain how to go about planning.
* VPWC states that she had asked chair women’s issue like training and Chair Women’s answered no. VPWC goes on to explain that out of all of her chairs and properly at all of union Council chairs that chair women’s gets the most help in terms of one-to-one time.
* Question from the public gallery, Stenhanic Broun, asked why campaigns are have been postponed or cancelled.
* Point of clarity: the events that have been cancelled were: Halloween pay gap ghost social, all of the open meetings and campaigns that been postponed are: reclaim the night and the stand-up speak out and report it
* Chair Women’s explains that the campaigns have been postponed or cancelled because of the lack of people power, miscommunication and confusion on the part whole of women’s committee and the unwillingness of executive members to pick up the slack and do the work.

**Summation speech of the motion**

* Speech given by fundraising officer for women’s committee
* Explains that for the last six weeks women’s committee has not been functioning properly as we have not done anything that was meant to have done and this is down to lack of communication from the chair women’s to the committee and a lack of communication from chair women’s to other women on campus.
* Chair of zone explained that there will be no questions in this the summation section.

**Voting**

* Chair of Zone explains that only the members of their own get to vote on this matter barring VPWC and chair of zone.
* Chair of zone explains what the members are voting on.

(Chair disabled students’ leaves the meeting but cast a vote before she goes)

* Action: All liberation minutes needs to be approved and accounted for.
* Point of reference: under the standing order for this zone all executive committed minute under this zone must be have all their minutes proved by the zone.
* After voting chair of zone announced that the vote is hung and therefore asked that the some members to vote again but to vote for or against a motion and not to abstain.
* The chair of zone explains that attention is the last resort. There is enough evidence provided to vote for against the motion and all the members have the paperwork done of them to make an appropriate decision.
* After second round of voting, the motion was passed therefore the motion will be proposed at Union Council that welfare and community zone has proposed a motion of no confidence against chair women’s.
* The chair women’s committee is now suspended until union council where the decision will either be approved or not approved.
* The chair of zone explains that there are two members of zone that are not present for the last round of voting but the motion still would have carried even if these two members of zone voted.
1. **Any other business**
2. **Next meeting**

**Next meeting is 13th November 2013 at 17.00 in meeting room 2**