



RVCSU COUNCIL

via Zoom

Minutes

Thursday 4th February 2021 17.30-18.30

RVCSU Council Meeting – Thursday 4th February 2021 17:30-18:30

Agenda Point	Action	By Whom	Date Action	Date completed
Proterio and exams	Survey students and liaise with Advice Centre	Georgia, Liv and Ellie		
Accommodation	Trustee meeting to discuss rent strikes	Quentin		
Email for new societies	Dance society	DSJ		
Varsity/AVS	Beth to speak to Jaq Taffinder	Jac and Beth		
Zoom Accounts	Look into affordable zoom account options	Gareth Jones		
Events Policy	Specific changes – wording to change to RVC Hub on FB, set a clear date of when we will review the policy (in the NY 11 th January), change the wording to say this policy is in place while College restrictions are in place	SU President and VP team		
#1 SU	No.1 Student’s Union in the World according to a barometer - Create graphics and shout about it to the college - Add SU to RVC #1 from 2 years ago	Jack and Fuchsia		
New Clubs & Socs	Set up email account for new Nerd and Welsh Socs	Jac Taffinder		
Black History Month (Oct)	Volunteers to general social media post and Jack Conway to get involve as well. Set up working group for Black History Month	Liv Craddock & Q		
VP Camden	Set deadline for VP Camden to be elected	Q & Dave		
AOB	Zoom account needed for Grad school social for incoming Research students.	Victoria & Q		
Entertaining our isolated students	Create a working group to discuss Support for quarantining students	Ellie & Quentin		
Create separate Facebook profiles for Officers	Create a working group to discuss	Quentin & Georgia		



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1. Welcome & Apologies:

Attending: Quentin President, Georgia Buck (VP Rep Comms), Dave Sherlock-Jones General Manager, Willow Gibson, Fuchsia Stocker, Victoria Lindsay and Gareth Jones (SU Postgraduate Officers); Stephanie Rae Flicker, Ellie Bayne (Welfare), Seb Miller and Pam Khera, (Ents), Jac Taffinder (VP Activities), Annie Shelton (RAG), Jess Tang (International), Jade Urquhart Gilmore, Liv Craddock (E&D), Sam Fenton (SU Treasurer), Celeste, Liv Nicolas (Environmental) Legend Thurman (SU SAVMA);; Emma Thomas (vet nurse liaison officer), Jack Conway (SU Media Manager), Danielle Golds, Simone Heaney, Genevieve Tibbett

Apologies:

Olivia Nicholas (SU Environment)

2. Minutes from last meeting see attached – confirmed by all

3. Undergraduate Sciences Officer Proposition – GB and QW

- For suggested role see appendix 1
- Much discussion - Some want it to be done and go to election, some think we should wait until the bi-elections
- **Background provided by Quentin**
 - Some courses feel neglected in representation
 - Result of strategic planning from a few years ago with Redbrick
 - We don't currently have this role, as every course should be represented by course reps, which may be a reason why we've not had this position until now
 - Post grads officers are a position because post grads have a specific need

Gen Tibbett – explained undergrad sciences feel underrepresented and feels this position would complete the 'feedback loop' from course reps.

Noted that not many course reps on this call

Jade – Undergrad sciences was a much simpler course in the past and representation was met by course reps then but now a course in its own right and now not only a 'feeder' course for the vet degree.

Alice Bio-sci 3 course rep – feels like this is really good step now that cohort has grown. The entire year group is very happy with this proposal.



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Steph – Rae – second Jade’s point but also consider the course rep element in this. Development for the reps with this position and how we will help develop their role

Gareth – deadline 7pm tonight to decide how we will proceed. Feed concerns into course reps and VP rep comms, similar to other roles (post grad, vet nurse)

Victoria – consider the job prescription to be temporary, as with the VP Camden, as it may change, (we won’t completely know what needs to be changed until someone is in the role. Feels we should not be too prescriptive, until we have run this role, so it’s not limited. Agrees with Sam, straight forward and has not changed, agrees with Dave’s 6 and 12 month review.

Ellie – state specifically what councils they should sit on – (**Gareth** advised this comes from the college) specify that they attend Bio Science CSC meeting

Dave – agrees with Victoria, we are better to review after 6 months and a year, to ensure they are useful. Feels the 6 month review is the crucial time and perhaps a 3 month (suggested by Q)

Sam – had concerned if we did not have relevant feedback from students involved in this role but now that it has been discussed with the correct parties, he thinks we should vote on it and push it though.

Eleanor Irvine – feels this would be very useful, what they have been looking for and feels it would be great for student morale

Shannon Bio Sci – feels this would show to the students that things are happening

Are you in favour of appointing an SU undergrad Sci as a trustee, to be run in the main election?

Yes 100%

No

Obtain

Note: All council members eligible to vote, except SU President



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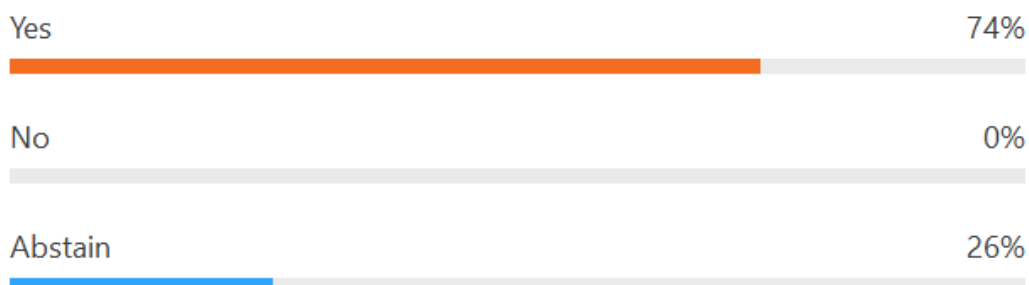
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Host is sharing poll results

1. Are you in favour of appointing an SU Undergraduate Sciences Officer as a trustee of the SU?



1. VP Camden Role Description – GB and QW

- For suggested role see appendix 2
- Changes to the byelaws, see appendix 2 (current byelaws attached for reference)
 - We have a geographical divide with the 2 campuses; students feel student representation is focused on HH
 - There has been a council member role, trustee but not a VP (was unpaid), which wasn't filled this year (2020-21)
 - College have agreed to pay for this role

Gareth feels some language needs to be changed - Under point 3 – 'discriminated against', change to make it sound more positive – Jade – we could add 'Equally represented' or 'equity' . Change to point 6. Q – Great if there was a weekly or fortnightly meeting with VP Rep comms and course reps.

Vicky – could do it similarly to how post grads meet with rep comms/ course reps

Georgia – Bio – sci course reps said Camden officer as a point of contact in the officer and keep in touch with Camden course reps often



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Are you in favour of appointing an SU VP Camden Officer as a Trustee of the SU, with proposed changes and subject to a six-month review?

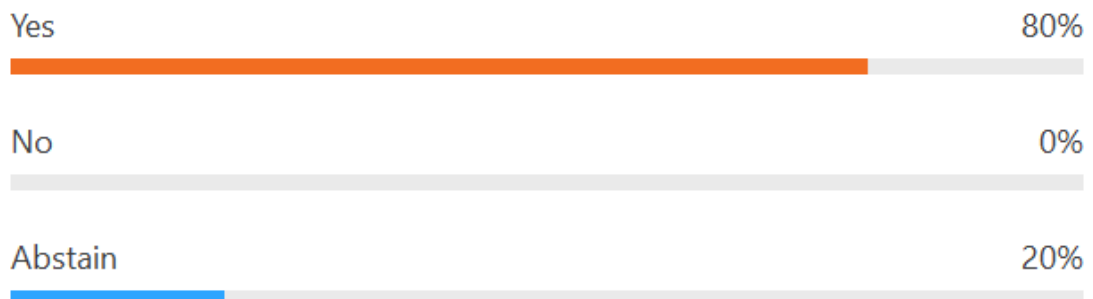
Yes – 100%

No -

Obtain -

Host is sharing poll results

1. Are you in favour of appointing an SU VP Camden Officer as a trustee of the SU, with proposed changes and subject to a six month review?





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Are you in favour of the changes to the SU Bye-laws proposed in the council agenda appendix?

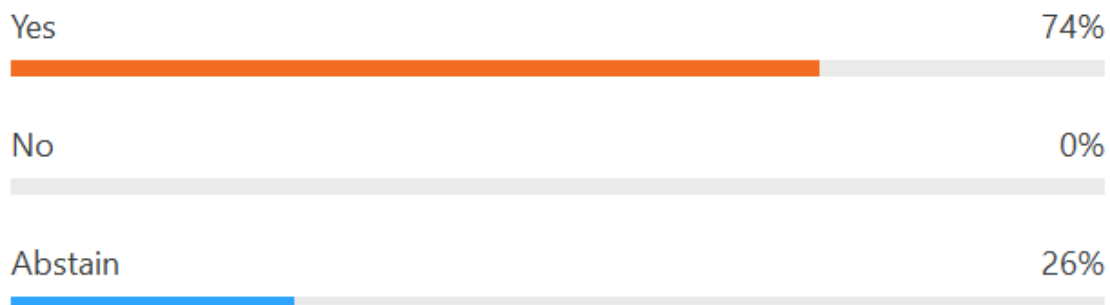
Yes

No

Abstain

Host is sharing poll results

1. Are you in favour of the changes to the SU Bye-laws proposed in the council agenda appendix?



4. Confidential Item – Discussion for Council members only as some of the subject matter is currently embargoed by the Trustee Board

Attending: Q, Dave, Willow, Fuchsia, Jade, Steph, Vicky, Gareth, Geogia, Ellie, Jac Taffinder, Jack cxonway, Annie Shelton, Vicky Payne, Adsm Robbins, Pam Khera, Jess Tang, Emma Thomas, Danielle Gold, Seb Miller

College suggested a meeting for this evening but it needs to be discussed by SU Trustees first.

Thanks to Vicky, Gareth, Sam who worked on survey and results



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Victoria showing a presentation – information embargoed and will be realised no later than next Friday. Must be kept confidential.

- Survey was available to students over 4 days
- 30.4% of student body responded
- 2/3 of people who reached out for support reached out to Advice Centre
- Less than 40% feel they will meet their learning outcomes
- Communication – PG meds and PGRs are happier, all others not happy with comms, especially the nurses and under bio courses
- Additional living costs, reduced incomes – all cohorts are suffering (but not taking up the college support fund)
- Additional stress with online exams – cohorts using Proctorio are feeling more stressed
- Have you taken proctored exams and have you encountered any problem – a large number (50-75% said yes) – various issues
- When was their problem resolved – during exam and not at all (50% for many cohorts)
- Satisfied with the resolution of the problem with the online exams – not great
- **Outcome adequate support-**
 - **Inadequate support**
 - **Specific services** – tutor, course rep, other (finance etc) – all negative outcomes – situations which are harder to fix/at the end of their tether
 - **Exams issues** – problems – not receiving exam arranges, home exam environments, poor college communication, proctorio didn't come up in this question

Open comments (most common themes)

- 267 comments
- 40% of students left comments
- 71% purely negative (more motivated when they have negative feedback)
- 7% were positive or mixed
- 47% Proc
- 27% Comm
- 36 Mental health

Differences by course:

- More negative from PG meds and PGT
- Science students had more positive feedback
- SU received more positive than others areas (includes mixed comments)
- Negative association with mental health comments
- Broad analyses



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Jade – suggested more of a breakdown could be done, to pin point where the problems are (eg perhaps all the bio had connectively issues?).

Vicky – some of the courses are quite small, easier to make a broad grouping. Difficult to bread down much further, due to the sample sizes. Feels it would be hard to take that to the college. Results need to hold up to the college scrutiny.

Raw data – agreed not to give it to the college, just show the presentation.

Gareth – we need to be cautious that students do not become identifiable. We need to protect their privacy.

What do we want from the college?

Discussion:

- Identify the problems and ask the college what they plan to do about it
- Mental health – ask them to confirm that we will return to normal university life, with face to face teaching (not continue with virtual learning)
- College have failed to manage expectations – need to be better with communications
- Look into issues in ‘tiers’ (eg exam accommodations), various services the college provide, things that the college can fix and shouldn’t be happening
- Seems to be no acknowledgement from the college, of how difficult this is for students from the college. International fees – conversation about SU asking college to freeze them
- Present the college with concrete ways of how they can fix things (eg an apology on social media), be specific
- Exam – already asked the college for data on how well online exams are working and suggest an investigation. Look at what exams actually need to be proctored
- Trustees to meet before the meeting with the college – brainstorm on what the college will come back with
- Trustees encouraged to email VPS with more points

5. Arrangements for Elections

- Georgia has asked for videos to be sent to Georgia asap. Everything going well with elections, voting decreased to one week and campaigning decreased to one week as well
- Champion the college staff who have worked hard and should be recognised

6. AOB – none



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7. **Date and time of next meeting** – Quentin will arrange for a later date, possibly the end of February or start of March

End of minutes WG

Appendix 1

Undergraduate Sciences Officer

- Be a part time officer and trustee of the Students' Union
- Be a point of contact for students on non-clinical undergraduate science courses including all BSc (excluding nursing), MSci and intercalated BSc courses
- Represent and support undergraduate sciences students on a placement year
- Ensure that the interests of undergraduate science students are well represented across college and at council meetings
- Liaise with undergraduate science course representatives regularly and communicate their concerns to the Union immediately
- Discuss the needs & concerns of undergraduate science students with VP Camden to ensure they are kept informed about current affairs affecting Camden students
- Meet with course leaders and college staff to ensure a high level of student satisfaction within the undergraduate science courses/ support course representatives if they choose to meet with college staff.
- Work with VP Camden and VP Activities to ensure that SU/college campaigns and events are accessible for undergraduate science students
- Organise a range of social and educational events for undergraduate sciences students throughout the year
- Develop and run campaigns targeted at undergraduate sciences students
- Promote involvement within the SU to undergraduate science students

The role will be open to any student who shall be enrolled on any BSc or MSci course, except BSc Veterinary Nursing, in the academic year for which they shall hold office. This requirement will be in the elections section of the bye-laws (see Appendix 2)

Appendix 2

Current VP Camden Description

1. Be a first point of contact at the Camden Office.



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2. Be a trustee for the RVCSU Charity and attend Board and Council meetings as required
3. Have regular office hours for drop ins at the Camden Office.
4. Make sure that members based in Camden have a voice within the Union and College and are not unfairly discriminated against due to the location of the campus.
5. Ensure clear communication between Camden students and fellow officers in their team.
6. Assist all Hawkshead based officers in advertisement and organisation of campaigns and events run on Camden campus to ensure, where possible, campaigns and events are run on both campuses.

New VP Camden Role Proposition

1. Be a first point of contact at the Camden Office.
2. Have regular office hours for drop ins at the Camden Office.
3. Make sure that members based in Camden have a voice within the Union and College, and are not unfairly discriminated against due to the location of the campus.
4. Ensure clear communication between Camden students and fellow officers in the team.
5. Assist all Hawkshead based officers in advertisement and organisation of campaigns and events run on Camden campus to ensure, where possible, campaigns and events are run on both campuses.
6. Have regular contact with the Camden-based course representatives to ensure their cohorts' voices are being heard
7. Liaise with the Undergraduate Sciences Officer to ensure the needs of science students based in Camden are being met, both within the College and the SU
8. Ensure the Camden based courses are celebrated
9. Where appropriate, meet with members of the College to advocate for Camden students' needs
10. Assist the Entertainment officers in the running of Freshers Week
11. Work with VP Activities and Campaigns SU General Manager and Administrative Staff to ensure the smooth running of Freshers Fair, and if applicable 'Re-freshers'.
12. Deputise for the President and other VPs in the event they cannot make Camden based meetings
13. Help the Environmental Officer to form projects and deliver them on Camden campus and the local community
14. Develop local community volunteering
15. Help seed and develop new clubs and societies based in Camden

Changes to 4.5 in Bye-laws:



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4.5.3 Currently marks roles with an asterisk if they can be shared between 2 members

Proposition: To remove the asterisk from the Camden Officer as they will now be a VP

4.5.4 Currently:

Only members of Veterinary Medicine shall be eligible to stand for AVS representative, only members of the Veterinary Nursing Courses shall be eligible to stand for the Veterinary Nurse Liaison Officer and only Postgraduates (taught, research or clinical) may stand for Postgraduate Officer

Proposition:

Only members of Veterinary Medicine shall be eligible to stand for AVS representative, only members of the Veterinary Nursing Courses shall be eligible to stand for the Veterinary Nurse Liaison Officer, only Postgraduates (taught, research or clinical) may stand for Postgraduate Officer, only those based at the Camden Campus during their year of office may run for VP Camden Officer and only Bsc (excluding nursing) & MSci students are eligible to stand for the Undergraduate Sciences Officer.







































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-  Willow Gibson (Me)  
-  RVC Student's Union (Host)  
-  Sam Fenton - VP Trea... (Co-host)  
-  Dave Sherlock-Jones  
-  Emma Thomas  
-  Genevieve Tibbett  
-  Jade UG  
-  Shannon  
-  Ellie Bayne  
-  Stephanie-Rae Flicker  
-  Victoria Lindsay  
-  Adam Robbins  



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- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| SF | Stephanie-Rae Flicker | | |
| | Victoria Lindsay | | |
| AR | Adam Robbins | | |
| C | CJoe | | |
| EI | Eleanor Irvine | | |
| GD | Golds, Danielle Taylor | | |
| JT | Jac Taff | | |
| JC | Jack Conway | | |
| | Jessica Tang | | |
| PK | Pam Khera | | |
| PM | Pyne Mercier, Victoria Elizabeth | | |
| SA | Shelton, Annabel Valerie | | |



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Jack Conway



Jessica Tang



Pam Khera



Pyne Mercier, Victoria Elizabeth



Shelton, Annabel Valerie

