

**FXU Student Council meeting
Thursday 30th April 2009**

Minutes

Present

Harry Pitts (Media), Janice Mitchelson (FXU Project Development Officer), Joe Holden (Spatial Design), Sean Graham (FXU President UECC), Andrew Windross (FXU Sports & Societies Officer), Heidi James (Academic Office, UCF). Ben Catchpole (FXU Ents Officer), Karl Shaddick (FXU President UCF), Dan Hartigan (Exeter English Rep), Maria Goodhew (Exeter English Rep), Kim Reay (minutes)
Arrived late: Henry Austwick.

Apologies

Sarah Toledo, Sonya O'Hea

FXU Elections

It was confirmed that in the first round of elections 3 Sabbatical officers and 3 Exec officers were appointed, however four Exec officer posts were unfilled. The free posts are Sports & Societies Officer, Equalities Officer, Environment and Ethics Officer and Community Action officer.

Nominations for these posts had re-opened. The date of the elections were not confirmed at the meeting – but are as follows

Nominations Close 12 noon 8th May

Hustings 11th May

Voting on-line 9am 11th May - 3pm 13th May

Results 5pm 13th May

Student Council Review

Janice Mitchelson, FXU Project development Officer, introduced herself and explained that her role was to look at how the student voice was heard and how the representation system worked. To compare this with other SUs and make suggestions on how it could be improved. Janice asked those present to explain how the Student Council was working/ not working.

Dan explained that he was not normally present at the meetings as they were always held on a Thursday and clashed with a regular seminar – as there was a second Exeter English rep this position was usually covered.

Harry thought that there was a systemic failure of representation. And without wishing to offend the FXU said that general student opinion was that the SU was in the pocket of the university (it was known that the union was funded by the universities) and that this needed to be corrected.

Ben thought that students had no voice. There was no communication between courses/ fxu/ campuses. He said that there was not even anywhere to display posters. Posters which he had had stamped and banners for which he had approval had been taken down.

Harry thought that to get more people and more involvement there needed to be a different atmosphere and there needed to be more openness. People would only become involved if the Union challenged the Universities, they would only come if there were things to be done.

Ben thought to make improvements in the future – students needed to feel like students, so not sat around a board table with a register, minutes etc but maybe a beer and a bbq, things needed to be more informal, more 'studenty'. Reps don't talk to each other outside of this meeting.

Harry said as the Stannary was not run by the Union, the Union is not recognised. He asked when the TCS contract ran out and if the Union would then be able to run it.

Sean said that in the future it potentially could, but the union and the university would have to be much bigger.

Ben asked if FXU were part of NUS? And mentioned that FXU was funded by University.

Kim explained that yes FXU was affiliated to NUS and that all SUs received funding from their institutions.

Janice asked whether things which had been brought to the table at Council meetings had been acted upon?

Dan replied that they had, but that everything seemed to take a very long time.

Dan mentioned that he had been to the Exeter main campus during elections and that the comparison was unbelievable there was so much interest, active campaigning and interest in the elections.

Janice asked how the course reps were selected. Dan said that they were called for by email. He didn't know if all the spaces had been filled.

Sean confirmed that all the places had been filled. He didn't know why people were not turning up to council meetings, they had used the excuse that they not receiving emails but Sean thought they were.

Janice thanked everyone for their input and said that the next stage was probably for her to contact other unions and find out what they did.

Sean said that Exeter was an old university and the student union had a lot of tradition. Their election turnout was the highest in the country.

Harry said that students don't have a stake in the institutions. In Exeter the union is quite politicised and interesting.

Ben we are even waiting for room to put up students artwork

Harry said TCS take control of everything and seem to be all powerful, the students need to redress the balance.

Sean said that TCS were aware that they had an image problem and were trying to rectify.

Ben thought that FXU should have more attitude.

Janice asked whether more training or support would help. She asked if council members had had any training and whether they networked. Harry said no – it would be good to take a look at other unis.

FXU Developments

Kim confirmed Janice's appointment as FXU project Development Officer and suggested that if anyone had anything further to add regarding the way the student voice was heard and representation of students they should contact Janice directly

(Janice Mitchelson 01326 253631 janice.mitchelson@falmouth.ac.uk)

Janice added into the minutes that all reps are welcome to drop in to see Janice in person in FXU offices in room EG10 (shares an office with Community Action Co-ordinator, Jill Dunn) at Tremough campus on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Janice is based in the FXU office at Woodlane campus on Wednesdays.

FXU Survey

Karl confirmed that a web-based FXU survey would be going live next week. It asked general questions about student interaction with FXU and opinions of FXU. Students could enter a draw for 3 x £20 prizes or answer anonymously. The link would be emailed to all students.

ENTs

Ben confirmed that the trip to Newquay last term had been very successful. Hopefully there would be another one in a link up with Barracuda this term with possibly 2 coaches travelling to Newquay.

Garden party tickets are now on sale

Beachbreak live is coming up.

Karl confirmed that in response to students requests FXU were organising Graduation parties. One for Exeter and one for Falmouth students on graduation days. They would be held at Falmouth Hotel, would be a 3-course meal with Band and DJ. Prices were to be confirmed but FXU were looking at subsidising Students tickets. Possible prices were £15/student and £20 /guest. Capacity was 240 per night – we would have use of the restaurant and ballroom. The hotel had agreed to a discount on rooms for those evenings.

Ben confirmed that Chav night was to be held at Stannary. Harry expressed his opinion that the term Chav was offensive and did not set a good example to students and the local community.

Mampi Swift tickets also on sale (16th May).

Marie suggested holding a beach BBQ. Ben said this had been discussed before but proved problematic with H&S issues, but he would look at it again. Marie said if it couldn't actually be on the beach maybe it could be on campus.

Any other business

Henry Austwick updated the Council on his investigations to set up a brewery on campus (The Beer factory) – this is progressing, they are now looking for sponsorship and letters of intent from local stockists. A supplier of equipment had been found and they also ran courses on brewing.

Henry also informed the council that he was moving closer to setting up a Real Ale Society for students and had negotiated £5 annual membership to CAMRA for members (normally £40).

Date of next meeting

To be confirmed by email.