

Leadership Team Meeting Agenda



Tuesday 14th March, 16:00pm, Falmouth, Seminar A

1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

Present:

CA Charity Aria	FXU Widening Participation
LB Lisa Burton	FXU Student Voice Chair
ACC Amanda Chetwynd-Cowieson	President Student Experience
JC Jamal Clarke	FXU Societies Officer
KC Kieran Cutting	FXU Community Officer
BF Bella Frimpong	FXU Liberation Chair
LG Laura Goodhead	FXU Open Exeter Officer
SG Sam Green	FXU Postgraduate Research Officer (Exeter)
TMR Tom Murray Richards	FXU President Exeter
DP Dean Pomeroy	FXU Undergraduate Education Officer (Exeter)
MR Miriam Richter	FXU Undergraduate Education Officer (Falmouth)
CS Chris Slesser	President Falmouth
HS Hannah Smith	FXU RAD (Raise & Donate) President
AW Alexa Webster	President Community & Welfare
EW Ellen Whitby	FXU Volunteering Officer

Also Present

MaB Matt Blewett	FXU Research & Engagement Co-Ordinator
BR Ben Rowswell	FXU Student Voice Director

Apologies

MB Mathilde Baade	FXU International Officer
CiC Ciaran Clarke	FXU Postgraduate Research Officer (Falmouth)
JS Jaimin Sadiwala	FXU Sports Officer
BH Bailey Hoare	

Attendees 15/26 in total – quorate reached.

2. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes are [here](#) Propose LB Second ACC, minutes approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

At the last meeting, Tom offered to look at the "[Make A Change](#)" Tab. TMR explained what it is, and how it works. He said it is a great way for students to directly feed into FXU's activities. He was concerned, though, that some "ideas" coming through were not about making a change but were about feedback instead, for example students were unhappy with Falmouth University's graduation plans last year.

So the **initial** proposal is that students who want to give feedback would get directed to a feedback form.

Then the **second** proposal is to target "Make a Change" so that ideas go into four categories called Falmouth, Exeter, student experience or community and Welfare. We do not have to keep these specific categories – you may think other categorisation is better, but categorisation may help clarify what the student is trying to achieve.

The **third** proposal suggests there is better guidance on there as well - some recent change ideas have been rejected or deferred because of wording rather than the spirit of the motions. A lot of the time ideas could be misinterpreted, so better guidance can lead to ideas that leave little room for doubt about their intention.

There followed discussion about the best guidance, including discussion over having drop down boxes to describe issues and solutions, the capacity of students with learning issues to articulate their ideas clearly – and distinguish accessibility issues from "sloppy writing".

Subsequent discussion critically assessed the categorisation and suggested that subjects may cut across presidential roles, and alternatives were discussed including tick boxes at the end to indicate other areas affected, but in the main the aim was to streamline and keep the idea as simple as possible.

LB asked for a further developed proposal for the next meeting.

4. [Questions](#) - (Password FXU)

Falmouth - Which member of senior member of management will be doing the next drop in?

CS – The next drop in is 98% certain to be Anne Carlisle, to take place next month. The last one with Alan Murray went very well. (Keep an eye on [Falmouth Events page](#) to find the date, time and location)

Student Experience - Has there been any progress regarding promoting meat free Mondays?

ACC – No. The Hospitality team is changing so this is on hold at the moment.

Are FXPlus taking the student voice seriously in their consultations? i.e. is the next round of Campus 2020 consultations actually based on student feedback?

ACC – Yes. I think FXPlus take student voice very seriously. The next round is based off the last round of feedback that some students went to. They now have 4 options as a result of that feedback. There is a loud steer from both universities about what they want it to look like, but joint services are good at ensuring that the student voice is just as loud as the universities. You can check on the plans [here](#).

Community & Welfare - Does FXU have any plans for addressing any problems that might be created now the student numbers cap has been lifted?

AW – we have not had to change the way we are working because we have assumed the cap would be lifted. We are working with Mabe, Penryn and Falmouth town councils, and both universities. The best thing would be to have students come forward to let us know issues to take to communities. That way we have your feedback as evidence that we can take to the Universities to make any changes that may be necessary. Please also let us know what is working well that you do not want changed, as that is also really useful to know.

How have you averted the housing crisis facing 2nd and 3rd year students?

AW – Don't know what the housing situation will be in September. Some people are still looking, some haven't started looking. There are significant changes; more houses have come onto the market, and UOMA has more rooms available to 2nd and 3rd years, if you are struggling then [email me](#) and we will put you in touch with people to find you somewhere to live.

Exeter - How are you evaluating the exemplar essays trial?

TMR – Evaluation happened in January. One concern was that the University was reluctant to roll out exemplar essays widely because they feel it is too prescriptive and gives too much push towards one way of expression. I have some sympathy with this position, but I have a problem because students have said that there is a problem and where there were exemplar essays they say that like them. The evaluation indicated exemplar is not necessarily the answer – that marking schemes should make it clear what 1st looks like. If anyone thinks I am wrong, please let me know.

Are there any plans to integrate postgrad students better into FXU structures? (understand that a lot of is that they're too busy, but they should still feel represented at least)

TMR – completely agree, could always do more to integrate different student groups into FXU.

SG – I've not had a single email all year. We don't have the same issues as undergraduates. They only come to FXU when there are problems on campus; most are getting on with their work.

TMR – If we split the postgraduate community into taught and research then the research postgraduates are a different situation. We aim to go into taught masters' lectures earlier with tailored messages relevant to those students. We have tried to reach out this year to research degree students but their work is different. We will support the widening participation intern.

All - How do the Presidents feel the recent elections went in terms of turnout, what FXU did to promote the vote etc.? Any lessons learned/improvements for the future?

AW – We had a record turnout of voters which is really exciting. It can be hard for students who are not involved to understand why it is important. We need to work on the compass because students

feel uncomfortable to go to library during voting week. We could always have more turnout because more people voting is important.

ACC – The increase in Falmouth students who voted is good. If people understand what the union does all through the year then we can place less emphasis on the ten days of voting. It was the first year of training the whole campaign teams which was good. We were going into lectures who did not join in a lot to explain why they would have candidates coming in and that seemed to work, but I think it is an annual thing rather than the 10 days.

CS – We have seen improvement this year and having benchmarked with other unions' turnout we still are ahead. We still could be better, so we need buy in from academic departments; I want to see department director supporting elections as they sit in senior meetings alongside the Falmouth President. I was surprised that despite the long duration and active promotion of the nomination period, there were still students who said it was sprung on them! Also get out of the compass.

TMR- its about diversifying how people campaign and diversifying what people do; where people are physically campaigning and how they campaign online. This year Exeter students had increased numbers voting but the percentage went down slightly. The main reason was that no one from biosciences or geography ran which is poor but they are large cohorts and they had no candidate to get behind. Going forwards, encourage people out of the compass and get more candidates running.

5. Make A Change Ideas

5.1 Vending machine and water fountain in the Masters Suite

Discussion points included:

- There is a water fountain in there.
- There is a vending machine in the lower stannary – so is this lazy or an accessibility issue? If you struggle, then [contact](#) your welfare president.

For – 0

Against – 9

Abstain - 2

Defer – 4

Idea rejected.

5.2 Force the University of Exeter to publish a cost breakdown of the £10.74million spent on 'Travel'

Discussion speculated over the causes of the size of travel cost.

For – 12

Against – 0

Abstain – 3

Defer – 0

Idea Passed – TMR to take forward.

5.3 Dinner on Campus

ACC pointed out that hospitality is in flux right now and so this could be something we ask to be incorporated into changes.

SG suggested gathering student opinion while catering is paused.

For – 10

Against – 0

Abstain – 2

Defer – 3

Idea passed – ACC to take forward.

5.4 Change how the universities deal with Sexual Assault and Sexual Health

Discussion included:

- There are several ideas in this one idea – some are idealist while others are more realistic
- There was debate over whether face-to-face communication was better than information / leaflets in fresher's bags and/or leaflets in accommodation.
- Supporting information with links should be on the FXU website.
- The role of police
- Short campaigns compared to ongoing, permanent visibility.
- Promotion ideas

For – 15

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

Defer - 0

Idea passed – AW to take forward

5.5 Lights through Rosehill Gardens

Discussion about the devastating environmental effects of light pollution, effects of light on crime, perceptions of safety, and the lighting (or not) of alternative routes.

For – 0

Against – 3

Abstain – 2

Defer – 10

Idea deferred for more research – LB to bring back the research.

6. Community Committee Proposal

KC - As a result of a perceived lack of engagement from the universities with the local community, I am proposing a Community Committee comprised of equal numbers of long-term residents and students. The long-term resident membership of the committee would consist of one Penryn Councillor, one Falmouth Councillor, one Cornwall Councillor and two open positions (to be appointed by the Community Officer after the upcoming local elections, and annually thereafter). The student membership of the committee would consist of five open positions, recruited by election annually.

The committee will assist the Community Officer in all matters regarding the execution of their role, including attending relevant local events and council meetings, along with ensuring there is adequate consultation of the entire community when actions are taken by the universities. The committee may also undertake any action which they consider helpful for promoting better community integration.

Two of my manifesto points included facilitating student attendance at local meetings and hosting a community forum for local residents to have their say. Both of these have been nightmares. When I have interacted with the public, disagreement has been unconstructive and so a public forum is on the back burner. There are a LOT of local meetings, as a 3rd year it is difficult to attend or facilitate attendance. Having some kind of committee means there should be at least a few people who could attend local meetings. In my idea, such a committee could comprise of 50% long term residents, e.g. Falmouth, Penryn and Cornwall councillors and 2 open positions to co-opt local community. The rest would be students.

The committee would assist the Community Officer in all matters regarding the execution of their role, including attending relevant local events and council meetings, along with University here is adequate consultation of the entire community when actions are taken by the universities/ The committee may also take any action that they feel would improve community integration.

Discussion centred on the potential composition of the committee and its remit.

For – 0

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

Defer – 15

Proposal deferred – KC to bring a formal motion to next committee.

7. AOB Next meeting and Close

TMR - Please encourage people to [run for your roles](#), if you are not a final year student consider rerunning. Encourage friends in lower years to stand for your and other jobs.

7.1 Next meeting Tuesday 9th May, 4pm, Penryn Campus, Exchange Seminar Green