

Annual General Meeting (AGM) | Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 21st November, 4-6pm

Lecture Theatre 2, Falmouth Campus

Chair: Mary Yemisi Shobowale (MYS) Student Voice Chair

Panel: Harry Bishop (HB) FXU President Community & Welfare
 Callie Edwards (CE) FXU President Falmouth
 Sarah Redman (SR) FXU President Student Experience
 Izi Robe (IR) FXU President Exeter

Speakers: Joff Cooke (JC) FXU Chief Executive Officer
 David Dickinson (DD) Director of Student and Academic Services
 Dominic O'Neill (DON) Head of Projects, FXPlus

Attendees: 37 FXU members – quorate not reached

1. Welcome & Introductions

MYS welcomes attendees to the meeting and introduces speakers.

Meeting is being [live streamed to the FXU Facebook page](#) for those who can't attend or who would like to re-watch later.

2. Approval Previous AGM Minutes

MYS asks for someone to ratify the minutes of the last AGM:

Sarah Redman Ratifies

Chris Bigland (Open Officer – Falmouth) seconds

3. FXU affiliations – HB

HB notes that the next two agenda items are for information only.

He notes the organisations FXU is affiliated to and the fees associated with this affiliation. These include:

- Living Wage Accreditation: £144
- BUCS Affiliation Fee: £775.59
- BUCS Umbrella Campus Fee: £1,557.07
- NUS (which includes affiliation to NCVO): £18,823
- NUS Green Impact Scheme: £180

4. Appointment of Auditors – Harry Bishop

HB notes that as set out in the FXU Constitution, the appointment of the auditors must be agreed at the AGM.

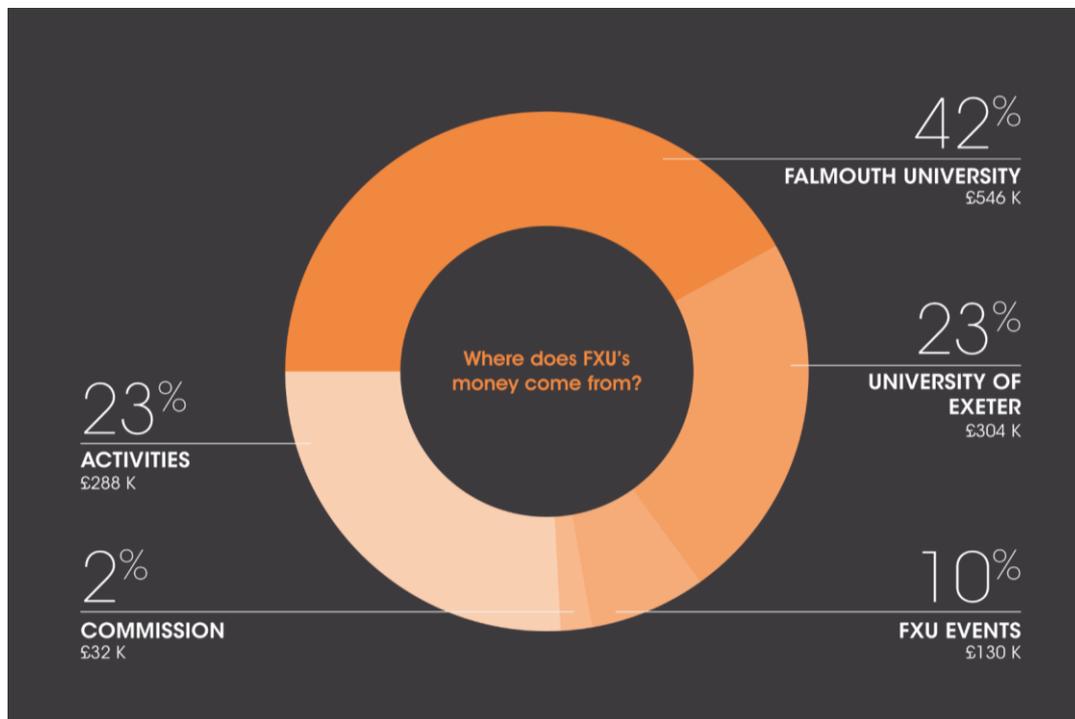
Lang Bennetts Statutory Auditors have historically audited the financial statements of Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union and it is proposed that they are appointed for the preparation of the Financial Statements 2018-19.

As they have been appointed for more than 5 years in succession, it is recommended that the auditors are changed after the preparation of the Financial Statements 2018-19. This review and appointment will be discussed at the newly formed Audit & Risk Sub-Committee, a Sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees.

5. FXU Finances & Strategic Direction – Joff Cooke

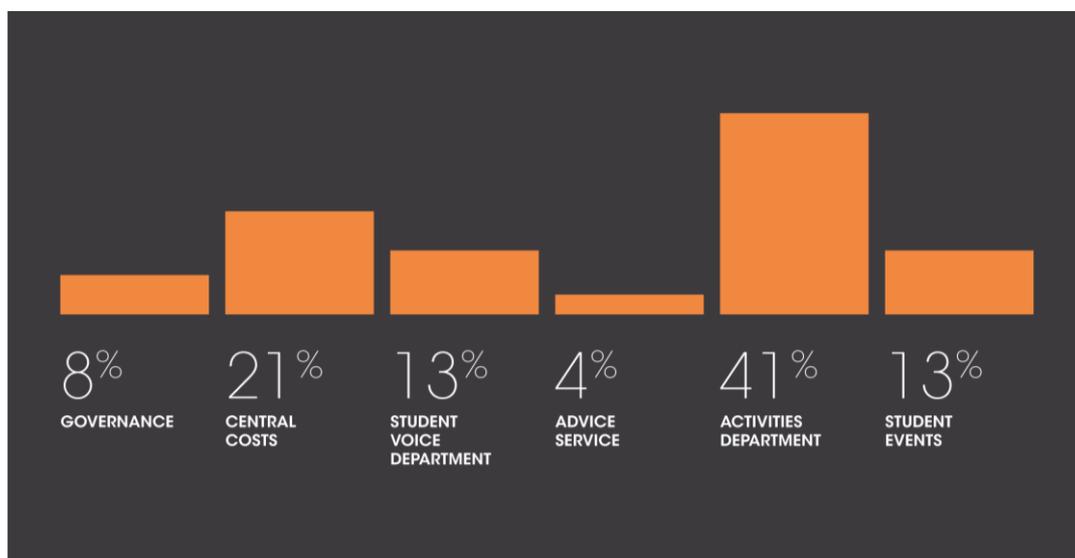
JC introduces himself as FXU CEO. Firstly FXU's finances are discussed.

FXU Income is discussed using the below pie chart:



JC notes that 65% of FXU's income is through Grants given to us by the two Universities and unlike a lot of other Students' Unions FXU doesn't have a bar so income is limited. Our events bring in some income and we get some commission through NUS extra cards and Koofi. Activities is listed as an income because we act as a bank for clubs and societies.

FXU's Expenditure is discussed using the below bar graph:



JC notes that most of FXU's spending is on staffing costs. This includes:

- Governance is the money spent on the FXU Presidents which includes wages, training and travel.
- Central Costs are the costs associated with finance etc.
- Student Voice department includes the costs for training reps, research insight and engaging a broader spectrum of student groups.
- Advice service costs mostly cover the costs of the 2 members of staff so they have been able to provide 612 appointments in the last year.
- Activities is the biggest spend as FXU supports 152 clubs & societies...
MORE FACTS FROM VIDEO.
- Last year FXU's event had a higher expenditure than income which was a calculated risk as we wanted to create a fantastic end of year event. We were able to do this as we had spare budget with a few members of staff moving onto new roles.

If students have any additional questions about FXU's finances they are welcome to come in and ask.

Secondly, FXU's Strategic Direction is discussed.

JC notes this is a follow up presentation to discussions at the AGM last year as FXU have now developed their Strategic Direction from now (2018) to 2023.

FXU's Vision: A world class student experience for all our students.

FXU's Mission: To have a positive impact on each of our members' personal student journey.

Core Values

1. Inclusive: We consider the impact of our work on and for everyone, not just those who are most visible. We strive to reach, respect and work with those who may need our help and support the most.
2. Collaborative: We work in partnership with our universities, other organisations, and the wider community to achieve the best student experience for our members.
3. Empowering: We want to help people achieve the best they can. We focus on giving enough support to help people to help themselves to succeed.

Personal Behaviours

1. Professional: Open, trusting and trustworthy in all our dealings.
2. Caring: Always consider others needs and expectations.
3. Fun!: Where appropriate, have a good time at work!

Strategic Objectives

To have the most positive impact on our members' lives as students, we will focus on the **academic, social and support** needs of all, such that all students should feel able to state:

1. I belong
2. I am heard

3. I am realising my potential
4. I am supported

Our enabling strategies to help us achieve our objectives

In order to achieve our vision, we will need to ensure our energies are directed to the right places to maximise our chance of success. We will therefore focus on 4 enabling strategies to support our work:

1. **Excellent governance:** We will develop best practice in governance ensuring that we are always open, clear and effective.
2. **People first:** Our people are our strength. We will ensure our students, officers and staff receive the best development support.
3. **Sustainability:** We will always aim to be as ethical and environmentally sustainable as possible, ensuring our finances and resources enable us to deliver in this way our objectives sustainably.
4. **Community:** We will engage positively with our universities and wider community, and work together to achieve our ambitions and those of our community partners.

MYS opens the floor to questions.

Q: You mentioned that you don't own the Stannary but get commission from Koofi. Can you provide more detail on the 2% commission mentioned in FXU's income?

A: FXU had contributed to the initial Koofi build so we then get money back from this initial contribution. However, this is in discussion at the moment as we didn't contribute to the Koofi rebuild. We're now negotiating what we need to contribute to continue to get this commission.

MYS notes there is no more time for questions though students with questions can come to FXU to find out more.

6. Updates from FXU Presidents

FXU President Falmouth – Callie Edwards

[Video update for FXU President Falmouth](#) is shown.

MYS asks for questions for Callie Edwards.

No Questions.

FXU President Exeter – Izi Robe

[Video update for FXU President Exeter](#) is shown.

MYS asks for questions for Izi Robe.

Q: What are you doing to involve Falmouth students in your work?

A: The main way IR doing this is trying to involve Falmouth students in Grand Challenges. She's also working on developing 'Cornwall Creative' which will be an opportunity to publicise the work Falmouth and Exeter students are doing together. She's currently promoting this by linking up with societies which is the main platform where Falmouth and Exeter students collaborate.

Q: Will there be a Grand Challenge happening in Penryn this year?

A: IR confirms the Grand Challenge mentioned in her video update will be at the Penryn Campus. This challenge will be called 'A Case for the Earth' and has been coordinated by the Law Department who are keen for Falmouth students to be involved.

FXU President Community & Welfare – Harry Bishop

[Video update for FXU President Community & Welfare](#) is shown.

MYS asks for questions for Harry Bishop.

Q: What have been the successes so far with the Community Wardens?

A: HR notes that anecdotal feedback so far has really positive meaning we've expanded patrols beyond Budock Terrace and Malborough Road. We're working on getting a formal platform for feedback.

Q: How much has been spent on the Community Warden Scheme?

A: JC notes that £8,000 was given from both Falmouth & Exeter Universities to run the pilot scheme this year. We'll be evaluating this at the end of the year and talking to Falmouth and Penryn Town Councils about how to take this forward.

Q: How have things been going with getting more Gender-Neutral Bathrooms?

A: HB notes that it has been discussed in an estates meeting. Also working on how we can better map out our current provision to make it clearer for our Transgender students.

FXU President Student Experience – Sarah Redman

[Video update for FXU President Student Experience](#) is shown.

MYS asks for questions for Sarah Redman.

Q: What is the plan with future social events, specifically Graduation events?

A: SR notes that social events used to come under the Student Experience President, however this year it's a task for the whole Students' Union, so we're looking at this as a whole team so updates will be provided.

Q: How is FXU involved in Stannary Events? Students have heard they have been privatised?

A: SR notes that over Freshers FXU ran a trial with an events company called One World. Aim of this was to provide a better variety of events. We'll be looking at how we develop this in future. The Stannary have hired One World to run events such as this year's 'Winter Ball'. This is similar to how The Stannary ran things last year.

Q: How is the Stannary extension going to affect events?

A: SR notes that the Stannary will be shut in June and July. Dominic O'Neill is here to speak about this later. Details are being confirmed about how we can have the least amount of impact.

7. Hot topics

MYS introduces hot topics, the first of which being Student Mental Health, and introduces the first speaker, David Dickinson.

Student Mental Health – David Dickinson

DD introduces himself as the Director of Student and Academic Services, which includes managing support services such as wellbeing.

Narrative in our country around student mental health makes you think of phrases such as crisis, fragility, failure, failing services... problem, problem, problem. There are challenges but this isn't the whole story. There is also strength, resilience and stories of people overcoming difficulties to be here and to succeed. Overcoming challenges, thinking about strengths and being resilient is also the story of the services supporting you.

Overall context for student mental health:

- Over the last 10 years there has been increase in the number of students disclosing mental health conditions/ disabilities. This is still only 2% of the student population in the country.
- 1 in 4 students are reporting mental health difficulties which is increasing overtime.
- Numbers of students seeking support has gone up significantly – a couple of years ago was 400 requests for help, it's now 1,200.
- Story for students here is no different to the national story. Mental Health is "the issue" faced by Universities and students at this time.

The Universities' response to this:

- Universities' mission is to provide education which has implications on the support we provide. Services provided are to enable students to complete their studies, meaning support is generally study focused, short term, solution focused support.
- We're not duplicating the NHS service so don't provide 24hr or emergency support for Mental Health.
- Support provided is part of a broader student support network which in the University includes student mentors, academic tutors and tutorials and outside the University includes partnership with GP surgery and the wider NHS.
- There are lots of services provided by the University which are made to support student wellbeing in different ways. Some have bigger roles than others like the accessibility, wellbeing and living support teams but there's also lots of other things like online tools and workshops. There's a huge range of support available, that isn't just counselling
- The Universities spend above the sector average on support for student wellbeing given our location and the types of courses we offer.
- 4500 student mental appointments are made each year, supporting around 2000 students on multiple occasions for 1:1 support and seeing over half the student population every year. This is only 20% of the overall work that is done.

What's being done to make sure services are effective?

- Relentless review with a constant process of improvement but also bigger changes such as last year's restructure of wellbeing services which allowed for more frontline staff and a 50% increase wellbeing staff. This is a reflection of demand.
- Increased online resources and self-help resources to help students help themselves.
- Running new and better workshops to facilitate support that works better in group settings.
- Increased offer of low intensity support such as listening services and the chaplaincy
- Good services alone aren't sustainable, looking at how we can make everything supportive of student wellbeing - looking at curriculum, assessment criteria, health promotion, staff training, supporting group work – making a sustainable supportive environment across the whole university.
- Working with the NHS – Health Commissioner from Cornwall is coming in to understand what our students need and looking to get community mental health and psychological therapy teams onto campus.

MYS asks submitted questions.

Q: What was done during the strikes to mitigate impact on student mental health?

A: DD highlights that Student Services received extra funding from the Universities to provide additional support to students. Frontline staff were given additional training to be able to recognise students who were displaying signs of needing specific support due to the strikes.

Q: What is the protocol for follow up after students use their 6 support sessions and is it effective to support students as much as possible?

A: DD notes that lots of students don't use their 6 sessions, the average number of sessions students use is two and a half. This shows we can do effective work with students over a much shorter time period. Sessions will end in an assessment of need and risk and we are able to escalate if this is needed.

The support we provide is focused on making sure students can remain studying. There will always be further steps but we provide services that are effective for most students needs and we link in closely with the NHS to support students whose needs exceed what we can provide. In general it works well for most students and allows students to leave those sessions knowing what the right thing to do is.

MYS thanks DD and introduces the second hot topic., future spaces on campus. MYS welcomes the second speaker Dominic O'Neill, Head of Projects in FXPlus' Estates Team.

Future Spaces and Construction on Campus – Dominic O'Neill

DON introduces himself and notes that this is an update on what was presented to FXU last in May on developments to social and academic spaces on campus. These are the last two projects in what was known as the Campus 2020 Plan. These projects can all be found [online](#).

Campus 2020 plan focused on having around 5,000 students on campus and over the last few years we've seen around £40mil of investment. These are the last two projects to make the campus fit for 7,000 students.

Academic side of the project is around replacing teaching spaces in Tremough House, a dated building with poor access. So that Undergraduate teaching isn't affected, the Universities have invested in a new teaching building. Social side of the project focuses on The Stannary is 15 years old and currently has a 1950s feel so also needs upgrading. These upgrades are part of the wider project which includes learning lounges and the refurbished IT Suite.

The Stannary development will be an extension to current space, creating a new front entrance and making it into an attractive space to study. There will be a spectrum of study spaces to support group study in new ways whilst also allowing students to move between The Stannary and the Library without going outside. The extension will create 4 spaces to facilitate smaller bespoke social events but they can also merge together for the larger events throughout the year. A new design team, GMP-Design, have just been selected to design the interior space and will be looking to get student feedback over the coming months.

The developments to academic spaces will be to create a new set of seminar spaces surrounded by new landscaped areas adjacent to the Design Centre courtyard. In the Spring we'll be looking to get feedback from staff and students on furniture options for these spaces. Seminar rooms will be more spacious than Tremough House and be more flexible spaces, with better access and natural light.

Both buildings will be the first buildings on campus to include gender neutral bathrooms within them.

Communications about these projects will be going out to all students and staff next week which will include the imagery shown during this presentation. Signs on campus will be around on campus shortly after.

There will be two opportunities to feedback on the interiors of these new buildings over the coming months and into the Spring.

Works will start in the Spring, with hoardings up whilst students are away in December. The academic building will be finished by this time next year and The Stannary will be fully open in Spring 2020. The Stannary will be open during term time but may close over the summer, with plans in place to make sure there is still provision for staff and students who are around in this period.

There is lots of work is being done to limit disruption and it is clear as to what work is going to be down and how to feedback to the teams should you experience any issues.

YMS asks submitted questions.

Q: Is the spending on updates and improvements to spaces on each campus relative to the relevant sizes of the student populations on each campus?

A: Student numbers on each campus are very dynamic each year, it might not be exactly relative but it probably is very close. Broadly, yes.

Q: Is construction on campus going to be sustainable construction?

A: Yes, both Universities take sustainability very seriously. Buildings will meet industry standard for holistic sustainability, meeting BREEAM standards.

Q: Will The Stannary extension disruption any of the library services for students just working at the library?

A: Honest answer is yes. There will be an element of disruption as with any building works. DON's job is to minimise disruption and communicate where there are alternative study spaces. Will have a red/amber/green flagging process in the library to communicate in advance when there will be disruption.

Q: When should new kit storage be available?

A: Storage on campus is always critical. Some summer projects took away storage space, so now looking at taking away non-essential activities from central campus to create space for this. FXU requirements are on the list.

Q: What impact will The Stannary extension have on graduation?

A: Working with graduation teams. Falmouth graduation will have alternative routes and shift to Tremough House and AMATA instead of the Stannary. Quieter days of construction are always factored in and these will be used over the graduation period.

outside

8. Motion: *The FXU must take a stance and fight in favour of a People's Vote on Brexit*

MYS introduces the motion and explains the process of for and against speeches.

Kurt Robinson (motion proposer) abstains from discussing he motion in light of not having enough students to reach the needed quorate of 50 students.

MYS welcomes a discussion if wanted. KR decides to with draw the motion.

9. AOB

MYS welcomes SR to the stage to discuss FXU Refresh.

Refresh is launching in January which will be a week long campaign from the 21st January to look at the different areas of the Students' Union. It will include taster sessions from Activities but also opportunities to engage in the Academic and Welfare side of the student experience.

MYS thanks speakers and attendees.