SU Committee Meeting – 27-10-2020

Attendance: RM (Publicity & Relations Officer), SWC (President), MP (VP), HM (EM Rep), LH (LGBT+ Rep)

Location: A Zoom call

Encouraging people to apply to be Junior SU Reps

RM   Does anyone have any ideas to attract any Junior SU Reps? We received no applications unfortunately. I think an issue was that by the time it was advertised, a lot of potential candidates had applied to other committees.

LH   Could we run the position in a JCR meeting?

HM   I think SU Committee suffers from a lack of understanding of what it is.

RM   I had made attempts to explain it, ultimately we just talk about how I should vote on various things.

SWC   Some positions will be run in tonights JCR meeting, if that seems to increase applicants, we can talk to the SRO about running this position in a similar way. I don't think poor advertising is an issue.

HM   People are more likely to sponateously run in a JCR meeting.

SU Assembly

RM Explains how SU Assembly works – it's a representative democracy

RM   It used to be that any one could attend and participate, but that is no longer the case. I think this makes my role more important as I'm the only representative of Cuth's. I didn't think a survey of the JCR for this set of papers was necessary as they are fairly uncontroversial.

SWC   I've got personal qualms with this change to assembly is run. It strikes me as quite detrimental to engagement.

RM   Traditionally not many non voting members came, and if they did it was due to a controversial motion. Every voting member I know isn't a fan of the change. The SU claim they are trying to find a solution.

Reports from Officers

MP   *Expresses his disusgt at the inferior SU minuting and agenda style.*

RM   A lot of the jargon is because the university strucutre is so dense – I think intentionally so, but that's just my opinion.

Amendment to Standing Order D

RM   I have no issues and wil vote to ratify, it's minor change to the standing orders to allow meetings online

Assembly Democracy Review Update

RM   I've been on the steering group for this, I think that it's important that the review is engaged with by Cuth's people as this is something that people are passionate about.

SWC   We won't be voting on this, it's just an update.

RM   I have personal issues with steering group, but not an issue for now.

Amendment to Equality & Diversity: Core SU Position

MP   Does this do anything?

RM   It's more about the core positions that guide the actions and the trustee – from outside it might be useless, but to the university this sort of thing is important. You guys can submit motions yourself, but it can be a bit tricky, so let me know and I can help you do so.

Democracy Review

SWC   You could hold drop ins for this – I'm unsure if people will come though. People have strong opinions about democracy, but they might be unaware of the review.

RM   The first stage is methodology. Stuff like how they word methods and surveys, which would likely be considered less important. Also, I think those who do surveys, almost by definition, have strong opinions.

SWC   We've offered prizes for responses to surveys in the past, we could do that for this. Perhaps an issue due to this being affiliated with the SU.

RM   SU is considering offering a greggs sausege rolls for responding to surveys, which I think could work.

AOB

SWC   I think people don't understand why their motions are rejected for arbitrary issues. Democracy review will address this I think. At GovComm when we reject a motion we try to help amend it so that it can go to a JCR meeting, SU should do so too.

RM   DSU are frustratingly reluctant to make changes before the democracy review. It's unclear how to submit motions, and there are issues with people being frustrated with rejected motions. Communication failings can mean that you miss an assembly and must wait months until the next one. I don't even feel confident submitting things. An Open forum was proposed, but this never happened, it would at least have allowed conversations. Accessibility is a real issue for Assembly.

Meeting Adjourned