Student Council Meeting Notes: 04-02-2025:

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

OC: Nobody seems to be declaring any issues with the minutes so we will move to the vote. That should be getting in the teams chat now. Please vote in favour or against those minutes and we will keep you updated on the results.

OC: if you haven't been courted yet, please don't vote in this part of the vote.

OC: Those people who just to remind you are Raymond, Mark, Alistair, Anish, Any and Oscar so please don't vote until after agenda 4.

JV: There isn't an option to abstain.

DD (SVT): An option to abstain will be added.

OC: The minutes have passed, so thank you for doing that speedily.

OC: We will now move to agenda point 4. Just a reminder if you haven't been ratified yet you can't vote on the ratification because that would be unfair.

2. **Voting Systems Demonstration**

Raj: I have been consulting with the DSL and would like to request a procedural motion to bring back hands voting

OC: We need to pass that motion, and I believe we can do that via hands. Please raise your hand if you're in favour. That passes, everything will be done via hands voting.

10 Min Break

OC: After the ratification, anyone that has been coopted and that has been ratified you are now able to vote.

OC: We are

3. **Minutes from last meeting**
4. **Names of Forum members for co-option on Council and Forums**

5. **Change the Title of the LGBTQUIA+ Officer**

OC: Moving to agenda point 5, which is the change and title of the LGBTQUA+ office to include the 'I' to include intersex people.

JB: It's not about the motion about itself and it is about a by law change, we have to through a traditional 3-year policy review. This does also require a 2/3 majority of the council will have to approve and I think we can get there.

OC: We are voting on this as a by-law change, please raise your hand if you are in favour of this. (1 voted against this motion, 0 abstained, and the rest voted in favour of this motion).

6. **XXXXX**
7. **Approval of Nominations and Adjudication Panel**

   OC: Sasha has nominated four people from forums and council to fill this role. (also explains what adjudication panel in the meeting)

   OC: Reads the names of the Adjudication Panel nominations

27 vote in favour.

8. **Ratification of Lay Trustee**

OC: Calls on EN to read the process of ratifying the Lay Trustees. The process of how the Lay Trustee was appointed.

EN: They go out, jointly with Leicester SU, Deputy CEO and the Director of the People Team, scored the candidates 1-5, surveyed quite a few people and Piers was the best option, he's a chartered accountant and good with risk management.

OC: Would anyone like to speak for or against?

JV: Can we address the elephant in the room… what happened to the last Board ratification?

SKS: Any relevant questions relayed to the chair and then to the Board.

OR: This individual has no experience with SUs where there any candidates who did have SU experience?

EN: There were with some candidates.

JV: What happened to Student Council's decision at Board last year, is Board in contempt of Student Council?

OR: If we vote not to ratify do you think the Power of Council will be used to ratify the decision?

AT: Board doesn't represent all its members. All FTOs had students concerns at their heart when they were voting.

OC: Any questions re the Board, relay them to me and I ca get them sent to the Board. D

OR: Piers didn't address how they would prioritise students.

EN: There wasn't enough clarification of that question.

JK: If we can't discuss the process of ratification, I'm going to abstain, they've set the precedent that if we reject their nomination they will overrule.

AP: General concern regarding this process, so how do we choose SU member?

EN: We already have lots of SU experience, we needed someone who has good finance knowledge. He has the expertise we have been lacking in that area.

OR: More generally against appointing another lay trustee, Board is choosing people who prioritise the company instead of students.

JS: What did Piers said our ideas should be for societies?

EN: He said we should be fed-free. He is replacing someone who has left. Lay trustees are outnumbered by student trustees.

DH: Do our vote counts matter or does Board just get to overrule? If the vote totals and thoughts of student councils that would be nice?

EN: I can take any conversations around the previous vote we can take that outside of this space?

NC: Is it a vote on the process or a vote on the individual?

EN: The individual.

LM: Outline on the process, you're voting on this individual and the information in front of you. The decisions taken at Board come as a collective. Board is open to having a meeting, to discuss as a collective and two decision making bodies. How do you work together and go on that journey?

JV: What foundational basis does that assertion have?

MW: This vote doesn't exist in a vacuum, there's a consistent devaluing of part-time officers, full-time officers, its not about this individual, there's a continual standstill and nothing is getting done, students aren't being valued in this institution as they should be.

JV: Does Piers endorse this process or not? Is he aware of the process?

EN: Is he aware if the process? Hs he endorsed it?

AT: I really acknowledge and hear what is being said, I'm a bit concerned maybe we can treat this council as a separate thing, we need to talk and break this cycle. A start would be to explain the rationale.

OC: We need to come up with a way to work in unison as councillors who are unhappy with the process?

OR: There was never a reason given in the minutes? What happens if there is a majority of abstentions?

DD (SVT): Board would have to ask for a reason for the vote? There has to be a procedural motion?

RH: What's the process once we have voted? Would our reasons be noted down? Can we ask that the FTOs not vote?

LM: The FTOs will vote.

OC: Happy to meet with anyone who has concerns about Board.

DD (SVT): There has to be a reason why. Under the new bye-laws the makeup of council is that the FTOs sit on Student Council, the final decision would sit with the President.

OR: Requests a secret ballot for this vote.

PROCEDURAL MOTION SECRET BALLOT:

FOR 24

3 AGAINST

0 ABSTAIN

AT: I can see there's appetite for abstentions, this vote feels meaningless, could we postpone the vote and have the SC meet the Board?

OC: Quite smart, quite a good idea.

OR: In the past the Board has waited to appoint trustees.

JV: I need reassurance that the FTOs won't go behind the SC like they did last minute.

EN: Asks for clarity.

JV: You approved a by-law change that removed the SC's ability to ratify.

JV: Request for Ruling Number 2?

JB: Hi everyone, it's a tough one, I'm looking at this nominee, this is not a consultancy, this is not a limited company, this is a students' union, this doesn't give us what we need in a trustee, we need someone who knows about students and about us – the reason we are here is for students. On the other hand, we can't meet someone on bended knee, we can't be forced to ratify. They don't represent the students. Not enough text.

OC: Do we go with AT's recommendation or would you like to vote with a secret ballot?

MW: A secret ballot, delaying it will cause more complications which was again discounted. We need to vote now.

JS: What's the ability to vote now and discuss at Board?

OC: Request my ruling or we could vote and discuss with Board after? How do we deal with the ruling being overturned? We need to come to a decision for how we vote soon.

OO: We did not meet in the summer term… it would be a shame if this concern never got voted on. It's worth having our voice heard where we can.

LM: If they are not ratified they cannot attend the next board meetings.

OC: Would you like to vote in those specified parts as laid out by DD?

OC: Voting if you want to vote for the ratification today?

15 FOR

10 AGAINST

2 ABSTENTIONS

OC: Will vote via secret ballot now?

OC: RESULT DOESN'T PASS. The Trustee has not been ratified. Next 48 hours need to email OC with the responses, title it "lay trustees council", within 48 hours, summarise them and represent it clearly to the Board.

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9. **Notification of Next Meeting**

10. **AOB**

JV: Explanation from Board around the by-law change, “undemocratic”.

OC: If anyone has anything they would like to say to the Board then send over to OC.

OO: Do we have a single final council? Will we have enough time in another council? How will we avoid this?

DD: Council can call for another meeting and propose a date for an additional council?

RH: What is the scope between Board and Council?

OC: I think its important that we have that meeting?

OR: We have discussed all these things, why cant we have the discussion here?

OC: It may be best to not just have FTO representation here?

JV: We want a productive working relationship with the Board, SC has tried to act in good faith and had a productive discussion…

OC: Can chair of the Board clarify wherever the decision will be overruled?

EN: The decisions of the rest of the Board cannot be established, clarification can’t be made.

OO: What is happening with ASVs this term? It would be good for students to engage with ASVs, it’s good way to get students involved in a democratic process?

OC: This can be noted in the minutes.

11. **Scrutiny Panel**