



**Minutes from UPSU AGM  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**6.30pm Sub:Lime, University of Plymouth Students' Union, Plymouth.**

Present: Ankit Agrawal, Craig Beoman, Harriet Bleaken, Hally Bridgman, Ben Brown, Helen Bugg, Luke Carter, John Casey, Alex Chuccher, George Clark, Mathew Clarke, Matt Cole, Katy Compton, Andrew Coombes, Vicky Crouch, Kelly Deade, Andy Duncan, Luke Edwards, Dean Gerald, Jessica Goodwin, Dom Greenop, Joanne Hall, Claire Harrington, Stacey Higgs, Chris Hunt, Vicky James, Simone John, Sarah Jones, Lewis Jones, Tom Kelly, Paul Kershaw, Ahsari Khan, Vicky King, Jessica King, Alex Lang, Corin Liddle, John Livingston, Matt Lodey, Matthew Mackay, Benjamin Mattoney, Katie Mettam, Polly Miles, Nigel Millham, Ben Millward, Drew Moffatt, Tom Morris, Hazel Morrish, Laura Nottle, Nicky Paton, Jordan Payne, Tom Perren, Abi Pettit, John Pointer, Elizabeth Ransome, Katherine Rix, Katheryn Roberts, Andrew Robinson, Gavin Robinson, Nick Rurchad, Pegah Safdari, Amanda Sanderson, Seena Shah, Sally Smith, Barney Smyth, Suzanne Tinlin, Colin Trelaid, David Trevaries, Gabrielle Tyrnrow, Chris Wallace, Nicola Warburton, Lydon Ward-Best, TomWard-Jane, Aleshia Sampson, Tom Vennard, James Redfearn, Ed Marshall, Chris Rees

Minutes: Tracy Priestman

Chair: Kev Blake

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the Equal Opportunities Policy, the Safe Space Policy, and the Staff Student Protocol.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

**2.1 Points of Accuracy**

There was no points of accuracy raised

**2.2 Ratification of Previous Minutes**

Members vote for the ratification of previous minutes

Passed Unanimously

**3. Matters arising in Previous Minutes.**

None

**4. Finance reports Presented by Aleshia Sampson, President**

The presentation can be found at [www.upsu.com](http://www.upsu.com).

The accounts for the year 2008/09 were ratified, there were no questions.

## **5. Motions**

### **5.1 Ratification of Trustees**

Aleshia Sampson explained that the appointment of the Board of Trustees needs to be ratified by the members of UPSU, she then read out a short biography of each.

All members of the Board of Trustees were ratified

### **5.2 Addition of a Placement Officer to Parliament**

Aleshia Sampson gave the speech in favour of the motion, Clare Willis questioned why this matter is being discussed as the Parliament Schedule already includes a Placement Officer. AS noted that there were no candidates for the position which raised the question of the necessity of the post. Dominic Greenop commented that he was on placement last year and did not hear from the SU at all during the year, hopefully this would change with a dedicated officer.

**For: Majority**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 1**

### **5.3 Increased Access to Drinking Water**

Claire Willis gave a speech in favour of the motion.

Ben Millward commented that it was a great motion, however he suggested that the motion focus on water bottle filling points as opposed to drinking fountains which may have hygiene implications. James Redfearn noted that bottled water is sold in the shop and as such forms part of the revenue stream for UPSU, CW agrees to remove Union Resolves part 1 'not to promote the sale of bottled water to students'

**For: Majority**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 3**

### **5.4 Carnage – Item for Discussion Only**

James Redfearn explained that Carnage is a commercial company which promotes large pub crawls, people pay £10 for a t-shirt and entry into pubs and clubs.

It was commented that it's a good night out and a good way to get to meet people and there was not any trouble at the event they attended.

JR responded that although it is a fun event UPSU cannot support it as students are paying for entry into venues which are normally free; also UPSU promotes responsible drinking which this clearly isn't. He also noted that the stewards, which are normally students, get 'paid' with drinks not money. There has been lots of bad media coverage surrounding the events which compromise student safety and are disruptive to the community. As a licensed venue UPSU will not be participating in the event and have discouraged our partner venues for being involved, this does not affect the ability of an individual to organise a social event.

Ed Marshall added that this issue arose as a motion was submitted regarding support of a Carnage event in Plymouth, however this was not submitted by a student. He felt that even discussing the event is ridiculous as there was no way that UPSU would be involved in supporting such irresponsible drinking.

Seena Shah noted that a Carnegie event in Plymouth would be detrimental to the relationship between the community and the University.

## **6. Reports**

### **6.1: Officer Reports and Q and A session**

Sabbatical Officers gave a verbal summary of their written reports

Question from Claire Willis to Tom Vennard – You mention that it was a good election but there were four part-time positions not filled, how can this be said to be good?

TV – There was a good turn out with regard to voting numbers however it has been recognised that they need to be promoted better in the future.

Question from Ben Millward to all sabbatical officers – do you think that NUS and students have the slightest chance to stop the cap raise, yes or no answer please?

JR – yes, AS – yes, EM – yes, TV –yes, CR – no.

Question from Dominic Greenop to Ed Marshall – Where will the extra fees go?

EM – When fees initially came in MPs thought that standards would be driven up and the quality of courses would rise with the increase, however there is no proof that this has been the case. On the question of stopping the raise in fees it only passed in Parliament by 5 votes.

Seena Shah added that she thought student input could make a difference as they make up a large part of the population, this added with all the parents of students and future students, teaching staff etc . and that's a lot of support.

Kev Blake suggested that sabbs be mandated to find out what fees get spent on

**For: Majority**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 3**

Chair notes that any further questions can be directed to the officers via email or at student parliament, which is held once a month and enables members to hold officer to account on a regular basis.

## **7. AOB**

### **7.1 Advertising Chris Shorey**

Aleshia Sampson noted that there have been discussions at Student Parliament regarding the appropriateness of UPSU advertising Chris Shorey lettings, she asked what people thought.

Ben Millward noted that he was the halls and accommodation rep last year and the university gets so many complaints regarding Chris Shorey, he feels that UPSU should not support them.

James Redfearn explained they pay UPSU to advertise as any other company would, they have paid £12,000 for advertising next year, this money all goes back into services for students specifically sports. JR added that he understood the concerns regarding Chris Shorey but felt that working with them to improve is a better option than having no links with them at all, for example after complaints about excessive fees last year JR contacted them which resulted in a reduction of the fee. Chris Hunt commented that Chris Shorey is first place that the university send students to when halls are full, it was also noted that Chris Shorey Lettings have so many houses it is difficult to find accommodation from other landlords.

AS thanked everyone for their comments and added that personally she felt that is irresponsible to advertise them but on the other hand the money they provide through advertising and sponsorship does support the activities and UPSU, she asked that if anyone had further comments to let the sabbatical officers know.

### **7.2 Closure of the Bar**

Aleshia Sampson pointed out that although the posters advertising the AGM mentioned the closure of the bar as a tactic to get people to attend many other unions have done this on certain nights. AS went on to explain that nationally SU bars have seen an 18% decrease in bar sales, whilst UPSU is not doing too badly at the moment it could be a discussion that needs to happen in the future. She ended by reminding members that income from the bar goes back into the union and funds other services like advice, sports and volunteering.

Seena Shah noted that many people are reluctant to come to the union in the evening due to drunken behaviour.

#### *Chris Rees leaves the meeting*

It was noted that there is always a large queue at the bar at the weekend and this puts people off coming in also. Comments were also made that there is not any variation and the nights are always the same.

AS responded that there have been two open meetings this term where people can give their opinions and suggestions about the ents in the students' union, only two people attended.

### **7.3 Community**

Aleshia Sampson explained that as part of her role as President she receives many complaints from local residents regarding the behaviour of students and spends much of her time defending students. UPSU works hard to maintain positive local relationships, if you have any ideas or comments on how to promote city cohesion please contact [president@upsu.com](mailto:president@upsu.com)

Sheena Shah commented that new students may not be aware of the impact of their behaviour and suggested that information be incorporated into induction talks.

The Chair and Sabbatical Officers thanked those members in attendance and reminded them that they have an open door policy and are contactable via email for any further questions or information.

**Chair closes the AGM.**