

COUNCIL MEETING NO. 4

30TH NOVEMBER 2010, 6.00 p.m.

Chair: C Bernard

Present: J Akinagbe, J Anderson, S Anwar, Z Asghar, M Batty, J Buck, J Dresner, D Hardwick, M Harrison, H Hill, T Javed, E Kerry, R Khan, M Mahfouz, F McGoldrick, F McGough, R McKeown, C McLellan, L Newton, Luke Newton, T Olawoki, H Omara, H Paterson, M Saqib, L Sterie, S Wakefield, A Walters, E Wraighte.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted for absence from R Arkush, B Dawoud, A Goodman, Z Gothelf, G Hassan, L Kaplan, O Kasin, A Tahboub, J Woodcock.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING NO. 3, 9TH NOVEMBER 2010

Minutes Accepted

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING NO. 3, 1ST NOVEMBER 2010

Minutes Accepted

MINUTES OF EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE MEETING, 12TH NOVEMBER 2010

Minutes Accepted

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING NO. 4, 17TH NOVEMBER 2010

Minutes Accepted

MINUTES OF SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 5, 29TH OCTOBER 2010

Minutes Accepted

MINUTES OF SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 6, 9TH NOVEMBER 2010

Minutes Accepted

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

Report Accepted

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

Internationalisation entailed improving the total experience of international students studying at Manchester University.

Report Accepted

STUDENT DIRECT OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

Last year one of the Student Director reporters won the Student Media Reporter of the Year award. Mancunions had been nominated in the past and it was hoped that the award would be won this year.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

A meeting had been held with Social Junkies and University with regard to social events organised by them during Welcome Week. It was suggested that meetings should also be held with various residents' associations, as the Union could not condone the culture associated with these events. If the University continued to use such an organisation it would create a bad impression of what was acceptable within the University culture. The Union would try to work with all parties to encourage social events, which were not just focused on alcohol and clubbing. The Welfare Officer was in the process of organising training for residents' associations with regard to ethical promotions.

Report Accepted

WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

'Know your neighbour' was aimed to encourage students living in residential areas to introduce themselves to their neighbours and be mindful of causing inconvenience when holding parties, etc.

Report Accepted

WOMEN'S OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

Report Accepted

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

Report Accepted

ENGINEERING & PHYSICAL SCIENCES FACULTY OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

It was noted that the required number of 3,000 votes had not been reached in the referendum, and that the Engineering & Physical Sciences Faculty Officer had submitted a motion on this matter. It was felt that more effort should have been put into the campaign to ensure that the quorum had been reached. The Engineering & Physical Sciences Faculty Officer pointed out that the Education campaign had to take priority, and it was difficult to run more than one campaign.

Report Accepted

HUMANITIES FACULTY OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

Report Accepted

LIFE SCIENCES FACULTY OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

Report Accepted

MEDICAL & HUMAN SCIENCES FACULTY OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 30.11.10

Report Accepted

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION:
UPHOLDING THE REFERENDUM RESULT**

Proposer: Mark Harrison
Secunder: Jeremy Buck

THIS COUNCIL NOTES

1. At the October General Meeting students voted overwhelmingly that General Meetings "aren't working" and that we should call our first ever referendum to see if students wished them to be changed.
2. The referendum failed to make quorum, but we have a decision where 93% of 2232 students voted in favour of the plans.
3. Quorums are there to stop unrepresentative samples of students doing stuff. 93% of 2232 is more votes than any elected candidate has ever achieved.
4. The quorum of 3,000 was arbitrarily written into the Articles of our Constitution by a member of Executive in 2007, ratified by Council, and sent to the Board of Governors for approval. Not passed through General Meeting.
5. The last time the Articles were amended by the student body through General Meeting/Referendum (as they're supposed to be) was over 20 years ago in 1988.
6. Since then the Articles have been amended many times, including at the Merger and in 2007, by the Exec through Council and the Board of Governors. No General Meeting or Referendum approval.
7. We are elected to represent the student body and their wishes.

THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES

1. In outcomes over broken process!
2. Students overwhelmingly want these plans implemented.
3. Life's too short. The Governance Review will only be implemented for 2011-12. That's 10 more months of broken General Meetings and a third of our students will never see the changes.
4. Implementing now:
 - a. Gives us a chance to see the plans in action, gives us a working system, and allows students a voice in the Union for the rest of the year.
 - b. Gives us an opportunity to review the plans at the Governance Review.
 - c. Makes it easier to send the Governance Review for student approval and makes sure we don't have another inquorate referendum for that (where you'll be again faced with this choice!)
 - d. Shows students we care about their decision and aren't ignoring it!
5. The quorum for referenda is too high (Leeds has a quorum of 1,500) and in never being approved by students is undemocratic and illegitimate.
6. A precedence of Council amending the Constitution has been set already. We will use it one last time with the full backing of our membership.
7. The referendum result is democratically legitimate and we shall act on it.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. The Constitution shall be amended, as per the wishes of the referendum, and sent to the University Board of Governors for approval.
2. All necessary steps will be taken to ensure the amending process is a success.
3. To implement the referendum decision as soon as possible so it can be reviewed by the Governance Review.

Mark Harrison "There be a division list"

Carried

The Women's Officer wished it noted that she was not prepared to vote on the Private Member's Motion and that she would leave the room for the vote. Curtis McLellan, Henry Hill, Dominic Hardwick and Fionnuala McGoldrick also indicated that they would leave the room rather than vote. The meeting then became inquorate after their departure.

MEETING INQUORATE : 7.50 P.M.