

**COUNCIL MEETING NO. 5**

**2ND FEBRUARY 2010, 6.00 P.M.**

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**Chair:** M Dunwell

**Present:** A Abdullah, J Agg, J Akinnagbe, H Anwar, Z Asghar, J Barth, T Chowdhury, H Conway, P Donohue, J Dresner, T Fairhurst, J Graves, G Hassan, C Jenkinson, H Kent, D Lee, K Little, L Margolis, J Maskell, L Newman, H Omara, Y Pang, A Saleem, D Sheldon, D Shirion, A Tahboub, V Thompson, S Wakefield, A Walters, L Williams.

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**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted for absence from H Brada, A Iftikhar, S Jafri, L Kaipainen, E Kerry, H Scott, C Taylor.

**ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON UNION COMMITTEES**

Sarah Wakefield resigned from the Elections Advisory Committee.

C Jenkinson "To overturn the Chair's ruling that proposers and seconders of election candidates can sit on the Elections Advisory or Elections Appeals Committees"

**24 : 4 : 2  
Carried**

Josh Barth was elected onto the Elections Advisory Committee.

James Maskell resigned from the Elections Appeals Committee.

**ELECTION OF NUS WOMEN'S CONFERENCE DELEGATION**

The above would take place 15th to 17th March in Coventry. Two observers needed to be elected, plus 1 black observer. The Welfare Officer was elected as one of the observers.

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING NO. 4, 1ST DECEMBER 2009**

**Minutes Accepted**

**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING NO. 14, 26TH NOVEMBER 2009**

It was noted that the International Students Officer and most of the Faculty Officers were not attending Executive meetings. The Engineering & Physical Sciences Faculty Officer pointed out that he had only been elected in November. The Chair reported that he had sent a few emails to the Life Sciences Faculty Officer emphasising the seriousness of her non-attendance at Executive and Council meetings, but had received no response.

**Minutes Accepted**

**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING NO. 15, 8TH DECEMBER 2009**

**Minutes Accepted**

**MINUTES OF SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 3, 20TH NOVEMBER 2009**

**Minutes Accepted**

**MINUTES OF SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 4, 27TH NOVEMBER 2009**

**Minutes Accepted**

**MINUTES OF SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 5, 4TH DECEMBER 2009**

**Minutes Accepted**

**MINUTES OF SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 6, 11TH DECEMBER 2009**

**Minutes Accepted**

**CUMULATIVE WEEKLY INCOME REPORT: 24.1.10**

It was noted that the management accounts up to December 2009 had been finalised, and the General Manager would be discussing them with the General Secretary within the next few days, prior to presentation to Executive.

**Report Accepted**

**CAMPAIGNS OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 2.2.10**

**Report Accepted**

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 2.2.10**

**Report Accepted**

**STUDENT DIRECT OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 2.2.10**

**Report Accepted**

**WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 2.2.10**

**Report Accepted**

**WOMEN'S OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – 2.2.10**

**Report Accepted**

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION –  
PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF HUSTINGS**

Proposer: Thomas Fairhurst  
Seconder: Jennie Agg

**THIS COUNCIL NOTES**

1. That election turnout is low.
2. That hustings turnout is low.

**THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES**

1. That increasing participation should be one of the Union's main and constant priorities.
2. That the nature of hustings is inappropriate for what it is supposed to achieve.

**THIS COUNCIL FURTHER BELIEVES**

1. That changing the nature of hustings in this way will allow for huge improvements in how it takes place, whilst keeping the system fair.

**THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES**

1. To amend Schedule F.7.6.1 "The Nature of Hustings" from F.7.6.1 "Nature of Hustings.

Candidates shall be expected to give a speech on why they should be considered for the post for which they have sought nomination and why members should vote for them:

- (a) Candidates for each position will speak in alphabetical or reverse alphabetical order to alternative between elections.
- (b) Each candidate will be given two minutes to speak.
- (c) Three questions will be accepted from the floor. Questions must be addressed to all candidates running for the respective position.
- (d) Candidates will have two minutes each to answer the questions.

To:

Candidates shall be expected to give a speech on why they should be considered for the post for which they have sought nomination and why members should vote for them:

- (a) Candidates for each position will speak in alphabetical or reverse alphabetical order to alternate between elections.
- (b) Each candidate will be given the same amount of time to speak.
- (c) The same amount of questions will be accepted from the floor for each candidate.
- (d) Candidates will have the same amount of time to answer the questions.
- (e) Time constraints will be defined and distributed by the Returning Officer.

- (f) Hustings will be filmed and published on the website.

**29 : 0 : 1**  
**Carried**

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S AMENDMENT –  
ELECTION REGULATIONS AND FAIR REPORTING**

Proposer: Jennie Agg  
Secunder: Thomas Fairhurst

**THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES**

That changes to this particular election regulation need to strike a balance between opening up lines of communication with the wider student population whilst not offering a privileged political platform to any candidate, except through the printing of approved manifestoes.

**THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES**

1. To change items a) and b) of Schedule F.7.2.5 "Student Direct and Other Media"

From:

- a) "Candidates may not write for or have material published in Student Direct (if it is in existence) or other media during the election period".
- b) Excluding the publishing of manifestos, no candidate may be referred to or promoted in the paper in any way.

To:

- a) Candidates may not write for or have material published in Student Direct (if it is in existence) or other media in a fashion that makes abundantly clear their explicit political or ideological beliefs. They may not write for or have material published in the opinion, comment or politics & analysis sections of Student Direct (if they are in existence).
- b) No candidate may be referred to in an editorialised manner or within the opinion, comment or politics & analysis sections of Student Direct (if they are in existence).

**The amendment was accepted into the main motion.**

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION –  
ELECTION REGULATIONS AND FAIR REPORTING**

Proposer: Thomas Fairhurst  
Secunder: Jennie Agg

**THIS COUNCIL NOTES**

1. That election turnout is low.
2. That hustings turnout is low.
3. That currently the constitution prevents Student Direct from publishing the names of and or material by candidates in union elections during the election period. (schedule F.7.2.5).

4. That the constitution states that the returning officer must check the paper for material relating to elections.
5. That the student direct team are bound by laws on libel and defamation.

#### **THIS COUNCIL FURTHER NOTES**

1. That at the hustings for Cambridge University's last elections, one candidate when asked about the autonomous LGBT campaign said: "[I] think it's more important that we provide help to [those who define themselves as LGBT]... to persuade them to no longer be LGBT.. to change them." IF this were to happen at UMSU, student direct would be unable to report on this.
2. That in the 2006 elections, Daniel Calder, Martina Booth and Rachel Rouse were all candidates running for the Student Direct Officer role, all had their names and articles printed in the paper during the election period but all failed to be elected. In the same year Sajid Rafiq was elected to the position of Student Direct Officer without having an article published in Student Direct.
3. That in 2007, Dominic Koole had no articles in Student Direct during election period but was elected over Tehmoor Khan who did have printed articles in the paper during the same period.
4. That in the 2009 election, Thomas Fairhurst, did not have a manifesto submitted in the student paper and got elected.

#### **THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES**

1. That Student Direct is a vital resource for communicating with students about union business.
2. That the current regulations stifle any meaningful coverage of elections, hustings etc that would inform as well as excite interest and understanding as to the importance of union elections.
3. That clear evidence suggests that printed names or authored articles have little to no impact on voting results. (see below).
4. That the spirit of the current regulations is accounted for by current laws on libel and defamation.
5. That changes to this particular election regulation need to strike a balance between opening up lines of communication with the wider student population whilst not offering a privileged political platform to any candidate, except through the printing of approved manifestoes.

#### **THIS COUNCIL FURTHER BELIEVES**

1. That allowing student direct to report on hustings and other events will increase voter knowledge.
2. That changing these regulations will increase voter participation, especially for "hard to reach students".

3. That changing these regulations will facilitate holding officials accountable to their promises.

### **THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES**

1. To change items a) and b) of Schedule F.7.2.5 "Student Direct and Other Media"

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- a) "Candidates may not write for or have material published in Student Direct (if it is in existence) or other media during the election period".
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- b) No candidate may be referred to in an editorialised manner or within the opinion, comment or politics & analysis sections of Student Direct (if they are in existence).

**Vote on motion with amendment                      22 : 5 : 2  
Carried**

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Elections**

It was noted that the nominations had opened earlier than usual to allow for a longer period than normal prior to the close of nominations.

#### **General Meeting**

The Communications Officer would contact Council members to address lectures on the next General Meeting. It was suggested that Council members should be mandated to advertise General Meetings via leaflets, door knocking, etc.

**MEETING CLOSED : 7.20 P.M.**