

minutes

Meeting:	International Assembly
Date:	24 th January 2017
Paper:	International Assembly Spring 16 – 1 (IAS100)
Author:	Muqaddam Malik
Purpose:	Record of Decision Making

uea|su:

“Students transforming”

Minutes of the Postgraduate Committee 24th January 2017

Assembly Members present: Silvia Castro Torres (ENV), Katharina Wodenitscharow (ECO), Anelia Kostova (ECO), Adiya Akyzbekova (ECO), Narmeen Naeem (INTO), Mariana Guevara (INTO), Anastasija Sahovska (CMP), Oksana Shlonimskaya (CMP), Nazar Wernsing (NBS), Saim Chinellato (HIS), Cecilia Calle (PPL), Alice Guilmineau (PPL) Malaika Jaovisidha (International Officer) and 4 other members.

Chair: Jean Roeting (NBS)

Apologies: Amanie Mathurin (DEV)

In attendance: Muqaddam Malik (Assemblies Assistant)

IAS101 Statements from the chair

- Muqaddam apologised on behalf of Amanie for her absence.
- They informed the assembly of an overview of the proceeding for the meeting.

IAS102 Approval of Minutes

- The committee was informed of the events from the previous assembly and committee.
- Minutes were unanimously approved by the assembly.

IAS103 Motions for Union Council

- Jean introduced Malaika to the assembly and introduced Union Council.
- Malaika introduced the motions to the assembly.
- They explained the importance of getting international students engaged in the union.
- They explained that the amount of international students at the university was disproportional to the number of international students hired by the union especially in elected positions.
- They went on to explain that the wider staff hired by the union in a wide array of roles does not include very many internationals. The issue was not around application but with hiring. This means that very many internationals applied but not as many were hired compared to home students.
- They introduced the idea of having workshops to teach those in need on how to balance time and apply so as to get involved.
- They stated that 19.27% of internationals staff the union and 80.73% are home students.

- They explained that the two motions will be going to Union Council next week.
- There were no objections to this from the assembly. The assembly was supportive of both motions.
- Jean encouraged the assembly members to get involved and to run for leadership positions.
- Malaika provided a testimonial on working in the union while encouraging the assembly members to apply.
- Katharina queried about the support for international and BME events and activities from the rest of the union.
- Malaika explained that the support was strong from their direct counterparts but not from the rest of the union. The case of Tarun with Black History Month was cited.
- This is because of the vast majority of the union not identifying with certain issues.
- Jean asked if any assembly members had applied for positions in the union. No one in the assembly had.
- Cecilia remarked that her friends who applied were British but the application process is not too hard.
- Anelia provided similar remarks and stated that the jobs are not particular targeted to internationals.
- Alice stated that there should be some form of support and training to ensure internationals have a fair opportunity.
- Cecilia, Alice and Annie commented that the most important aspect is having equal opportunities and fair treatment.
- Oksana stated that realising skills that one possesses is very important as transferable skills are key to getting these positions.
 - Oksana informed that assembly that new applications are open in late February.

IAS104 Officer Update

- They stated that the major focus had been the previously discussed motions for Union Council.
- Malaika discussed another priority which was fundraising for the Syrian Awareness Week which is a collection of events geared towards raising awareness and raising funds for East Aleppo.
- They quoted the participation of numerous societies such as Model UN, Migrant Solidarity, International Students Society, Politics Society and Others.
- The assembly thanked the officer for efforts.

IAS105 Employment for International Students

- Muqaddam explained the agenda point on behalf of the absent chair.
 - Katharina stated that there is an issue around the grade of the First Year of university. Saying that it does not count discourages people from working hard and this can cost students internships and other opportunities. There should be more emphasis put on this as it is relevant when applying to internships and masters programs.
 - Anelia cited a similar problem and stated CareerCentral is not entirely helpful in supporting international students get part time and internships. They also hoped for some workshops on applications and such specifically on interviews, assessment centres and online tests for internationals.
 - Jean stated that there are many opportunities abroad for British students offered at CareerCentral but few if any for internationals.
 - Cecilia and Katharina stated that there should be equal opportunities especially surrounding internships, work experience and graduate program that are offered and advertised.
 - Alice queried about the effect of Brexit on internationals students.
 - Malaika and Muqaddam explained that the ripples would
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not be felt for at least another two years.

- The assembly discussed the implications of Brexit and whether it will unfold.
- Malaika informed the committee that there will be a new position in the union for an

IAS106 International Officer for the EU.

- Katharina and Cecilia stated that most of the information should be provided in first year to allow students to prepare around employment prospects from the first year.
 - Alice stated internationals have a slight advantage as most can speak more than one language when applying for jobs outside the UK.
 - Jean offered his support to assist any internationals with issues surrounding employment.
 - Anelia commented that it would be more beneficial to advertise smaller companies and not just massive corporations to broaden the platform of opportunities.
- ### International Events
- The chair asked if there was the possibility of events directed at international students.
 - Oksana reminded everyone of Global Beats which is hosted every Monday in the LCR. It usually is co-hosted by cultural societies but always happens.
 - The assembly expressed their concern on it being a Monday.
 - Malaika explained that this was the best option.
 - Malaika explained that there will be a Go Global taster next week and promotion is underway for the actual event.
 - There were queries around participation and the general event. Malaika and Jean answered these.

IAS107 Comments on International Student Outreach

- Muqaddam explained the agenda point on behalf of Amanie.
- Anelia explained that there is a discourse between the SU and international students.
- Most members of the assembly stated that people know it exists but there is little or no interaction with actual students. Most incentive to go in comes from society responsibilities and student jobs.
- Alice and Anelia appreciate the campaigns that have been run by the SU.
- Malaika explained the survey being run on restaurants for Internationals. The assembly hopes to avidly participate.
- Katharina expressed support for Theo's campaign on undergraduate education. It was proactive and engaging thus people largely saw it and took part in it.
- The assembly discussed the messiness of the elections and the lack of knowledge surrounding the process.

IAS108 Any Other Business

- The assembly wanted to thank the SU and the officers for their work and greatly appreciates the campaigns.

Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting

6pm, Tuesday 7th March 2017, Bookable Room 5.
