

Meeting:	Postgraduate Committee
Date:	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2020
Paper:	Postgraduate Committee Winter 20
Author:	Scott Arthur
Purpose	Record of Decision Making

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## Minutes of the Postgraduate Committee 22nd January 2020

**Committee Members Present:** Alicia Perez (Activities and Opportunities Officer), Amelia Trew (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer), Sophie Atherton (Campaigns and Democracy Officer), Martin Marko (Postgraduate Education Officer), Benjamin Pinsent (AMA), Gina Kim (ENV), Lewis Martin (PPL), Subeer Sarkar (NBS), Megan Pay (PPL),

Chair: Lewis Martin (PPL)

Apologies: Matthew Gallagher (PPL)

In Attendance: Josh Melling (Student Engagement Coordinator – PG), Scott Arthur (Advocacy Assistant)

### 516 Statements from Chair

LM explained that MG was unable to attend this meeting, and therefore they would chair the meeting.

### 517 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes approved with one minor amendment as suggested by AP.

### 518 Action Log

AP stated that there are limited officers for student officers to speak at the BUCS Conference, but this was due to be worked on for future meetings.

MM stated that they were liaising with the university in regard to the collection of information pertaining to funding. Further commented that while the Doctoral College meetings are currently private, they are looking into getting this changed for future meetings.

### 519 Update from Assembly

N/A – Assembly was yet to meet

### 520 Postgraduate Ball

LM explained that this suggestion had come from the PG assembly, and that some data had been collected in regard to whether it was a popular proposal. Highlighted that the committee had the funds to carry this forward.

GK stated that they perceived this to be a good idea, especially after the academic year ended.

LM clarified that tickets would be charged at approximately £10 per person after subsidy.

Committee came to the consensus that more data should be collected, with JM outlining what could be in any potential survey.

### **521 Supervisor CPD**

MP raised that there were steps towards the formulation of a survey for PGT and PGR students about what they desire from supervision, and that the next steps were to take this survey further forward.

JM stated that these concerns had been raised at Doctoral College, and that they may be taken further, as some data may already exist in this area from previous attempts. Will feed back to committee when more is known.

**\*Action: MG to continue following up on supervisor CPD\***

### **522 Democracy Review**

SA Introduced the item, reminding everyone that the current review is not finalised. Talked through the two opposing plans, explaining that regardless of result, there would be a group to take up the work of this committee.

MP initiated conversation around the role of PG Assembly and attendance at it.

Committee accepted that there needs to be an effort to ensure PG Assembly is effective, with good chairing, attendance and advertising.

### **523 UCU Strike Working Group Update**

LM responded that little had developed in regard to this as it had been Christmas, and they had been out of the country.

MM introduced the screenshots of their calendars, and took questions pertaining to how these relate to his lack of attendance at the UCU picket lines.

MP stated that MM's attendance will need to be better in the future in the event of strike action.

LM highlighted that UCU were currently re-balloting on issues around pay and pensions.

#### **524 Sky House Working Group Update**

SA has had meetings with university staff in regard to this, and has more planned.

#### **525 Update on Conference Funding**

LM introduced that a student has recently discovered that they will be left out of pocket in regard to expenses. Asked whether committee would fund this shortfall.

Committee unanimously approved this going to a vote, with the vote to be conducted on teams.

MM was queried about his efforts in collating funding, and stated that he had received lots of additional questions from the university, which have been hampering his efforts somewhat.

**\*Action: MM to continue to liaise with the university in regard to collecting information about funding.\***

LM asked whether the committee should investigate increasing the thresholds for grant applications to increase uptake.

Committee accepted that before this occurs there needs to be additional promotion of the grants.

**\*Action: All committee members to share the information for grants on social media, if they feel comfortable doing so.\***

#### **526 Diversity of Grant Requests**

**\*Action: MG to work with this working group, and to feed back at future meetings.\***

#### **527 Winter Events**

LM explained the budgetary impacts of the winter events, stating that those who came enjoyed themselves but there was less uptake than had been hoped for. Reminded committee of the need to spend the projected budget.

#### **528 Doctoral College Executive Summary and Update**

MM reminded members that the papers are closed to those not in the Doctoral College meetings. Provided an oral update.

### **529 Postgraduate Trustee**

LM reminded members that the position of Postgraduate Trustee is still open and encouraged members to run.

### **530 Any Other Business**

BP raised that the VC is coming to Union Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, encouraged members to attend.

### **531 Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> of February, 5:15pm, Corner of SU office.