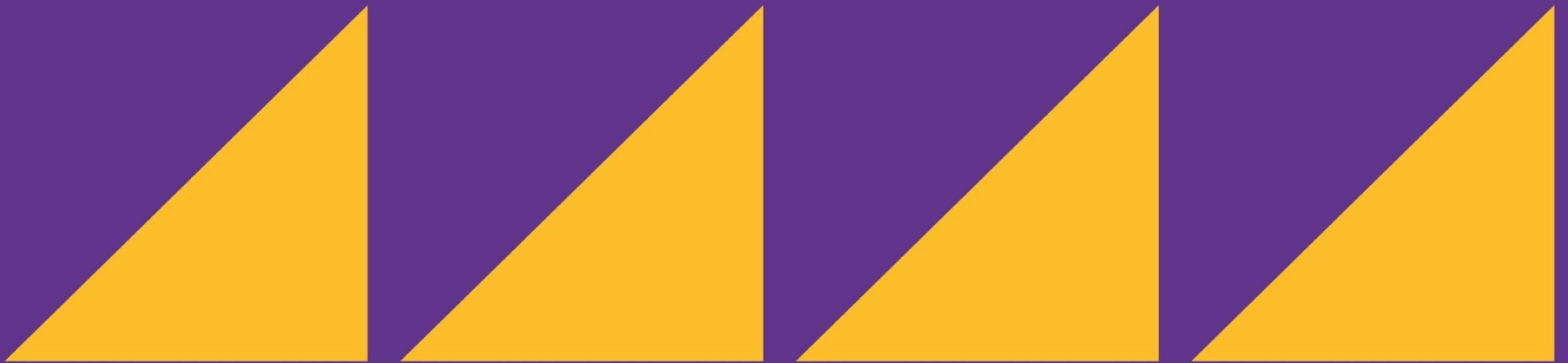


Better Forum

11/05/2021



Better Forum - 11/05/21

Location: Zoom (Online)

Time: 5.00-7:30pm

Forum Facilitator: Lois Raines

Number of Reps in Attendance: 20 (7 Activities Exec / 12 School & PGR Reps / 1 Community Rep)

Number of Panel Members in Attendance: 14

Officers in Attendance: Izzy, Lucy, Franks, Lotti, Carolina, Sophia and Laila attended and provided updates.



What've the Exec been up to?

Izzy Walter - Union Affairs Officer



- I am working on a presentation and report to take to the University Executive Group about **our findings from the student experience during COVID-19**. There's a lot to learn from what you've missed the most this year about the key aspects of the Leeds experience.
- I've also been working with Lotti to **evaluate the Student Sustainability Advisory Board and Climate Week**. We're working with Sue Stones (Head of Operations) and Aidan Grills (Chief Exec) to **complete the Sustainability Strategy by June**. The next step is to consult the Advisory Board, Uni of Leeds Sustainability Service and LUU Senior Managers.
- Lotti and I have been **working with students who have applied for the Sustainability Grant Fund to support their ideas** – you can now apply for funding from LUU if you have an idea to improve sustainability and the student experience!
- I've been on a few **interview panels** this term, for two key senior University appointments – DVC Student Education and DVC Digital Transformation. More recently, we **recruited three new Student Trustees at LUU**.

What've the Exec been up to?

Lotti Morton - Community Officer



- I attended **NUS National Conference** where our policy on Student Housing passed!
- I've been writing the campaigning section of the **new LUU Sustainability Strategy** with Izzy.
- I've been highlighting issues with **Residence Disciplinarys & Security** and Sophia and I are currently **proposing a review to the University**.
- We had a **meeting with Alex Sobel MP** to discuss local issues around safety and renting.
- Sophia and I are **lobbying the council to take a stronger lead on student safety** alongside Leeds Beckett Students' Union.
- We've **proposed some drastic changes to the Unipol Code**, asking them to take a stronger stance on protecting students renting rights and promoting good, flexible landlords.

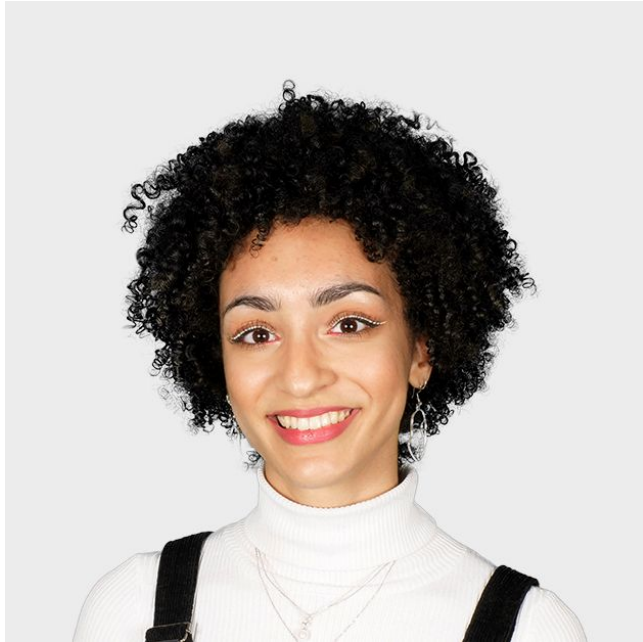
What've the Exec been up to?

Lucy Murphy - Activities Officer



- Held the **WeMakeEvents campaign** at the end of March. We had a variety of performances from our Clubs & Societies and local artists, all raising awareness of the lack of governmental support the events industry has received throughout the pandemic.
- Worked with the University to secure **outdoor space for our Clubs & Societies**.
- Sophia and I have been **finalising our committee welfare training programme**, working alongside Activities and Help & Support to consider the next stages before introducing it to our student leaders.
- I have been working with events and SPA on the **Riley's and Sports Colours Awards**. Both will be taking place at the start of June.

What've the Exec been up to?



Carolina Hall-Rodriguez - Education Officer

- Working on a new **decolonising podcast alongside Laila Fletcher** where we interview students who are engaged in decolonising work within their schools.
- Held an **Education Assembly** in which Alice O'Grady (Dean: Quality & Standards), presented a draft of the new assessment strategy for student input and feedback.
- **Meeting with key staff in the libraries** to feed back students' lived experiences of the libraries in order **to improve access to study space and resources.**
- Putting together a video to **raise awareness of digital support available to students** in order to decrease the impact of digital poverty.

What've the Exec been up to?

Franks Feng - International Officer



- Me and the International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) were **awarded a Leeds Partnership Award** in the Global category.
- I have been working with the University to **reduce international students' placement year and study abroad fees** to the same price as home students (a few thousand pounds cheaper).
- I've also been **working with LUU, the Careers Centre, and the Alumni Team to improve recruitment strategy** for students from all backgrounds. This can help us build up a multicultural staff team on campus.
- **Working with the ISAB on housing and sense of belonging issues.** Also working with Carmen (from the Marketing Team) for a further survey of internal students' opinion to make it better structured next semester.
- Continuing to **build networks between faculties and LUU to help students** get support from the Union even if they are not on campus.

What've the Exec been up to?

Sophia Hartley - Welfare Officer



- Researched and presented the university with the best Report and Support websites across the sector. Including **organising a demo from Culture Shift**. I am optimistic by the new academic year we will have **an improved Report and Support platform**.
- **Attended NUS Conference** and delivered our joint proposal on student housing rights.
- Continue to prioritise student safety. **Proposing a new policy to Leeds City Council** that enables more effective communication channels between student representatives on matters of safety.
- **Lobbying the newly elected West Yorkshire Mayor** to include student safety in new strategy.
- **Continuing to ensure that student wellbeing is prioritised** during exam and assessment season.

What've the Exec been up to?

Laila Fletcher - Equality & Diversity Officer



- **Ethnicity Research Survey Launch:** to gain a better understanding of the experiences of our BAME (Black, Asian or other ethnic minorities) students in regard to ethnicity and their course experience.
- **Working Class Representation Week:** a focus on our 'Widening Participation' students where we're going to be having conversations about class, identity, careers, and opportunities. There will also be events and opportunities catered to all students. The week will be from June 7th-11th.
- **Anti-Racism Working Group:** LUU is striving to be recognized by our students, staff and external stakeholders as a truly anti-racist organization. Our first step is to commit ourselves to listening and learning. We are on the final consultation phase of having a statement that is drafted from our community, for the our community.

The results are in...

There were 14 panel
members, an idea needs 11
votes for consensus



First Up...

Better Union Ideas



Should LUU provide Carbon Literacy Training for staff and student leaders?

For: 12

Against: 1

The Idea **passes**, and becomes Union Policy for three years!



Should LUU implement a loyalty scheme within its outlets?

For: 13

Against: 1

The Idea **passes**, and becomes Union Policy for three years!



Ideas which change LUU governance

The following idea is being brought forward because we want to make a change to LUU governance. LUU is a charity, which means as an organisation we are required to comply with specific rules, laid out in our 'governing documents'. One of these is our 'Bye-Laws', the most detailed set of rules we have at LUU. The Bye-Laws cover a wide range of areas and help guide decision-making at our highest levels.

When we want to make a change to these governing documents, there are a number of steps we have to take. The change has to be approved by experts on our Board of Trustees, and it has to be checked for legal accuracy by the University Legal Advisor. The most important step is this one – approval by our members. We are an organisation completely led by our members and we don't make any significant changes without running them past you. You can see the full Bye-Law changes attached to this agenda.



Should LUU update their complaints, disciplinary, and appeals procedures?

For: 14

Against: 0

The Idea **passes**, and becomes Union Policy for three years!



Should LUU and the University commit to providing more sustainable products to people who menstruate?

For: 13

Against: 1

The Idea **passes**, and becomes Union Policy for three years!



Should LUU explore a working definition of Islamophobia, led by Muslim students at Leeds?

For: 13

Against: 1

The Idea **passes**, and becomes Union Policy for three years!



The following ideas were not heard or voted on. We need a specific minimum amount of School and PGR Reps to attend for the Better University and Leeds ideas to be heard but we did not reach that number and therefore could not proceed.

Next Up...

Better University Ideas



Should the University implement a peer mentoring system that is cohesive across campus for all incoming undergraduate and postgraduate students?

For:

Against:



Should the University encourage academic schools to introduce content note guides for lecturers and module leaders?

For:

Against:



Should the University offer to pay for travel expenses of prospective students who must attend compulsory offer days?

For:

Against:



Should the University implement a Student Advisory Board for the Careers Service?

For:

Against:



Last Up...

Better Leeds Ideas



Should LUU and other partners in the city do more to protect student safety?

For:

Against:



Upcoming Events;

- Working Class Representation Week 2021 panel events:
 - **Authentic Conversations: Inclusive Spaces** (7th June)
 - **Being Working Class in Higher Education** (8th June)
 - **Women, POC & Entrepreneurship** (8th June)
 - **Authentic Conversations: Privilege** (9th June)
 - And many more across the week!
- Applications to be an LUU **Liberation Coordinator** are open until **23rd May!** Get in touch with m.hewitson@leeds.ac.uk or m.bebbington@leeds.ac.uk for further details.

Submit Your Own Idea

- Inspired by what you've seen tonight?
- You can submit your own idea online at luu.org.uk/representation/your-ideas/
- If you've got any questions or would like to chat to us, please email LUU.PET@leeds.ac.uk - or drop any of your Exec an email
- The next forums are in November

Thanks for coming

