

Minutes

Subject:	Management Committee Minutes: 19 May 2020
Produced by:	Tony Moore
To:	Management Committee
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Present: Ali Perez (ALP), Martin Marko (MM), Toby Cunningham (TCU), Callum Perry (CP), Amelia Trew (AT)

Chair: Sophie Atherton (SA)

In attendance: Tim Cave (TCA), Claire Boothby Barnbrook (CBB), Caroline Wilson (CW)

Apologies: Wendy Storey (WS)

Action Points from meeting

- SA asked that Leicester model be included in forthcoming MOU with the University
- TCU to write to staff to update on furloughing – will include clarification that the Shop will be closed on the upcoming Bank Holiday and that the SU will not be participating in the University’s planned ‘rest days’
- Bank Holiday closure of the Shop to be publicised with signage and online/social media
- All FTOs to look at Mental Health and Wellbeing in the time of Covid survey and suggest any final changes
- Reassurance to be given to incoming FTOs that meetings arranged prior to their start date are entirely voluntary
- CP to arrange extra Board meeting in first week of June on finances

MC 431 Minutes, Apologies, Matters Arising

Minutes of the meetings held on 12 May 20 were agreed. Chair noted the completed action point.

MC 432 Covid Response

Finance

TCA noted that the University had responded to the Union's request for further funding and the offer had been considered earlier at Finance Committee. For MM and AT who had not been at the Committee meeting, TCA reported the key points of the offer:

- £100K temporary funding for the current year to be made permanent
- £526K for the transfer of retail and catering
- £20K to maintain alcohol impact initiative
- £350K reduction in rent on Union House

TCA noted on the April accounts that they were roughly in line as to forecast with profitability slightly up and an overall loss for the month of £63K.

MM noted that the University's offer was conditional on the Union providing unfettered access to teaching spaces in Union House during any future UCU strike action: MM wondered whether this would breach Union policy.

SA noted that the decision to bar teaching in Union House during the recent industrial action had been taken at Management Committee on the basis of demonstrating support for the UCU. SA noted that, as acceptance of the University's offer would be crucial to securing the Union's future existence, Management Committee would be obliged to agree to unconditional future access.

MM noted that a new consumer group for the Shop was envisaged.

TCU advised that the format of the Student Experience Committee was under review by the University and that the new group would be a good forum going forward.

SA asked that the Leicester model on SU/University relationship with campus catering be integrated into the forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University. **AP**

MM emphasised that the Union would need to ensure that there would be no negative impact on student staff once they were transferred to employment by the University.

TCU envisaged that the University and Union would issue a joint statement to that effect.

MM registered their disappointment at the lack of involvement of students in the decision making on the agreement with the University.

TCU advised that there was student involvement in the decision making process: Student Officers and Student Trustees had played a key part but that wider consultation with the student body had been precluded by the fast changing and urgent nature of the pandemic crisis.

Business Continuity Plan

CW reported that the furloughing scheme was proceeding as planned: in the next Phase 3, the Union would need to decide whether to extend it to the Shop.

SA asked TCU to write to all staff with an update on the furlough scheme. **AP**

Governance

TM noted that, with the transfer of responsibility for retail and catering to the University, a section on the Development and Oversight Board (Retail and Catering) would need to be cut from the Bye-Laws.

TM noted that the Risk Committee would be meeting the next day and the AHRC would meet in the week prior to the main Board.

Academic and Impact on Students

CBB reported on:

- Key academic issue - changes to modules. Union position now on website and letter sent to OFS as to what good consultation should look like
- Student feedback – particular groups impacted by the pandemic – MED students who started work early to help the NHS still liable for tuition fees
- PGR students – MM will update on extensions
- Accommodation – students being pressed into agreeing early contracts
- Comms – hits down because on ongoing work on projects
- Hardship Fund Survey – 91 hits

CBB asked for FTOs to send in any suggested changes to the Mental Health and Wellbeing survey before it was finalised and released. **AP**

CBB confirmed to MM that the final version would be sent to the PG Committee.

Overall

TCU reported the University had unveiled its mitigation plans to deal with the financial loss caused by the pandemic. TCU noted the plans ruled out compulsory redundancies. TCU noted the University would be taking a gradualist approach to re-opening campus with the science blocks being opened first.

TCU noted on Southern SUs that Kent SU was setting a six month rather than an annual budget because of the financial uncertainty caused by the pandemic and this might be something for the Union to consider.

TCU noted that Sussex SU was developing an approach centred on students as digital citizens rather than as consumers.

MC 433 MC Going Forward During Covid

The Committee noted that the Union had come to terms with the 'new normal' and there would be little need to continue to meet weekly. The Committee agreed to meet on 9 June and 23 June.

The Committee asked CP to schedule an emergency Board meeting during the first week of June to consider the University's offer on funding.

MC 434 AOB

Shop – Bank Holiday Closure

The Committee agreed to the closure of the Shop for the upcoming Bank Holiday, and asked this be publicised with signage and online/social media.

TCU advised that the Union would not be participating in the University's two planned 'rest days'.

The Committee asked that clarification on the above issues be included in the CEO's update to staff on the furlough scheme. **AP**

Incoming FTOs attendance at meetings

ALP noted that one of the incoming FTOs had felt uncomfortable about receiving invitations to meetings taking place before their start date. ALP asked that reassurance be given to incoming FTOs that meetings arranged prior to their start date are entirely voluntary.

Facebook Officers' Live

The Committee agreed that this event which had not been publicised as yet would be postponed until after the conclusion of the financial settlement with the University: FTOs to discuss rescheduling outside of meeting.

MC 435 Time, Date and Place of next meeting

1 pm, Tuesday 9 June, online.