**Students’ Union Forum Minutes 26th October 2017**

Chaired by : jack Johnson

The Students’ Union President ( Jack Johnson (JJ) presented his report.

Key highlights included :

* Attended university Council (Taking part in the discussion regarding our block grant)
* Attended NUS conference
* Attended Lead and Change Conference
* Appointed to the Student opportunity advisory group for NUS
* Contacted every society president in preparation for freshers to discuss events and student engagement
* I have also met with the Vice Chancellor and Dean of students to continue the conversation on how we improve the university
* Attended my first NUS advisory board on student opportunity
* Attended HR Training in preparation for recruitment for a new GM
* Attended student governors training
* Attended the first university council of the new academic year
* Spoke at commencement ceremony for all first year students
* Helped run both sports team and society leaders training
* Attended C Card training

There being no questions from the floor this was accepted.

Students’ Union Vice President (Welfare and Community)- Vanessa Ospina presented her report.

Key Highlights included:

• Planning this Girl Can campaign

• Had Merseyside travel at our fresher’s fair, in order to help students know how they can get around in Liverpool.

• Attended fresher’s fair at Liverpool hope for the first year.

• Attended and supported our PGCE student fresher’s fair

• Supported societies in their events and help to get it off the ground.

• Starting to plan for our LGBT+ February events that will be open to all students.

• Setting up plans for our gender neutral toilets here at Liverpool Hope

• Creating a society for parents and careers, a society that will act as a support network for these students.

• Become more involved with residential life at the university, I now sit on the residential life committee; we have now been ask to attend all Halls “Dining in nights”.

• I have also helped organised and promote The “Well- Being festival” in cooperation with the wellbeing department.

There being no questions from the floor the report was accepted

The Vice President Education, Fiedhelm Doolin presented his report.

Key Highlights included.

• Emailed all members of staff regarding Course Reps, asking to attend SSLC meetings if possible, whilst developing a closer relationship with all Departments offering to take a more involved role with Course Reps, in terms of making sure Course Reps are carrying out their main functions and responsibilities effectively.

• I have raised several issues with the University around the early dissertation deadline submission dates, Hope Works Ten Hour student contracts and First Year engagement policy, regarding its impact on students.

• I have met with the Director of Library Services and Learning Skills and Spaces Co-ordinator regarding reinstating the free books for First year students scheme, in order to reduce the burden on First Year students when they first arrive at University.

• Attended several National Union of Students conferences, including Lead and Change and Zones Policy conference, holding our elected officers nationally to account.

• Attended several Student Union Trustee Board Meetings.

• I have had conversations with the newly elected MP for Liverpool Walton Daniel Carden, encouraging him to meet with the University to discuss some of the issues that students at the Everton Creative campus, in his constituency are facing, and I hope to get in touch with the MP for Liverpool Wavertree Luciana Berger to raise issues that students at the main campus are facing.

**Policy Motions**

Motion A Moved by Jack Johnson

Question from floor

Does this motion apply to sports teams

Answer No only to societies

Motion put to the vote

For 63

Against 3

Motion carried

Motion B

Moved by Feidhelm Doolin

No questions

Motion put to the vote

For 83

Against 0

Motion C

Moved by Feidhelm Doolin

No questions

For 84

Against 0

Motion Carried

Motion D

Moved by Feidhelm Doolin

For 63

Against 0

Motion Carried

Motion E

Moved by Vanessa Ospina

For 84

Against 0

Motion Carried

**Sports Funding**

The following clubs presented their bids for funding

Badminton

Basketball

Netball

Women Football

Cheerleading

Women’s GAA

Women’s Hockey and Womens Rugby nobody in attendance to present bid, Bids fell.

The following amounts were allocated

Cheerleading £86.08

Badminton £55.99

Womens Football £69.98

Netball £85.83

Basketball £44.79

Women GAA - £51.79

**Societies Funding**

The following societies presented their bids

Afro Caribbean Society

Musical Theatre Society

Nobody present from law Christian Union Bid fell.

The following amounts were allocated

Afro Caribbean Society £178.26

Musical Theatre Society £121.74

**Upcoming events:**

**Close Of Meeting**

**Appendix**

Motion 17/18 A

Moved by Jack Johnson

This union believes that a greater level of uniformity across society’s will allow the union to provide greater support which will in turn allow society’s to function more successfully in the future;

- Societies should therefore submit the nominations for society leaders by mid-January

- Elections should then take place by the end of February

- Handover should occur during March

- All student society elections should be done by secret ballot

The union believes that this will ensure societies leaders will be properly equipped to run a society for the next academic year.

The union will also review its effectiveness in monitoring society elections before the AGM next year.

Motion 17/18 B

Moved by Feidhelm Doolin

Dissertation Deadlines

Liverpool Hope Students Union notes

1. That the University’s’ decision to change the Dissertation Deadlines from a May date to a March date for Undergraduate Third year students, is completely unrealistic.
2. The new deadline will put students with disabilities, mature students and students with other full-time responsibilities such as caring responsibilities, at an unfair disadvantage to other students in their cohort.
3. The new Dissertation deadline combined with the Coursework deadline date, will place unnecessary pressure on all students, and the limited working timeframe can cause students to perform badly in both pieces of work, thereby impacting on their overall degree classification.
4. The University have failed to pay due regard to Equality legislation, specifically the Equality Act 2010, which requires the University in its role as a Public Authority to have due regard to the need to “Advance equality of opportunity between all persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.”
5. Had the University properly risked assessed this change in practice then due regard would have been paid to the fact that this deadline discriminates against students with a protected characteristic under the Equality Act.

Liverpool Hope Students Union calls on

1. Liverpool Hope University to change the deadline date from March, to late April or early May date.
2. Our Vice President Education to act against the University’s’ decision and begin lobbying the University, i.e. through a petition, to change the date from a late March date to late April or early May deadline date.
3. All Full time Sabbatical Officers to openly support the deadline being changed to a later date, within their respected areas, in their various meetings with Senior University staff.

Motion 17/18 C

Moved by Feidhelm Doolin

First Year Engagement Policy

Liverpool Hopes Students Union notes

1. The Level C engagement policy enacted by the University has had disastrous implications for Students who have started their studies this year.
2. This policy has prohibited Students from receiving their student loans until they arrive on Campus and collected their ID cards, resulting in students not receiving their loan for a period of 48 hours to 3 weeks after.
3. With students from low income families unable to afford to live without their maintenance loan, this policy singles and penalises those students that desperately need their loan. Even though, the University has offered loans to those students who have yet to receive their maintenance loan, it should not be the case that those students are singled out and must ask the University for money so that they can simply afford to live whilst studying.
4. This places unnecessary worry on many students, and causes the opposite that this policy was intended to do; students disengaged with their studies as they are concerned and burdened with their financial situation.

Liverpool Hope Students Union calls on

1. The University to review the Level C Engagement Policy and remove prohibiting Student Finance from this strategy so to stop penalising those students with difficult financial situations.
2. The University to work with Liverpool Hope Students Union to identify and tackle the real reasons why some First-Year students do not engage with their studies.
3. All Full time sabbatical officers to voice these concerns within their respected roles, and with Senior meetings with University staff.

Motion 17/18 D

Moved by Feidhelm Doolin

National Demonstration for Free Education

Liverpool Hope Students Union notes:

1. The National Union of Students, the Trades Union Congress and a large majority of its members, including the University and College Lecturers Union, and the Labour Party all support free education. These groups understand the unnecessary burden tuition fees place on students.
2. With overwhelming majority of the UK population voting for political parties that wants to abolish tuition fees and reinstate maintenance grants, it is of extreme importance that we as Union campaign strongly on this issue, in order to challenge the Governments argument that free education is unaffordable.
3. Around 70% of students who left university in 2015 are expected never to finish repaying their loans, with long term predictions showing that the Government has lost money by trebling fees.
4. Students from low income and working-class backgrounds suffer disproportionately with the highest levels of debt, given changes to interest repayment rates and the transition of maintenance grants into loans.
5. The contribution of our Vice-Chancellor in terms of recognising this critical issue, and working collaboratively with Liverpool Hope Students Union to provide travel for students wishing to participate in the National Demonstration for Free Education.

Liverpool Hope Students Union calls on

1. Our Full Time Sabbatical Officers to openly support and campaign for ‘free education’, organising travel for Liverpool Hope students to participate in the National Demonstration for Free Education on November 15th.
2. All Full Time Sabbatical Officers to call on our Vice Chancellor to help provide travel for students wishing to participate in the demonstration.

**Policy Motion 16/17 D**

That the proposed Teaching Excellence Framework is furthering the marketisation of Higher Education.

That performance in the NSS is now being directly linked with the fees an institution can charge it's students.

The Executive Council met on Wednesday 25th of January 2017 and discussed at length the possibility of participating in the National Union of Students Boycott of the NSS - it was decided in principle that we should be taking part in the National Boycott of the NSS. The resolution for how we do this were not discussed.

This Union Believes:

By linking the NSS to the TEF, the Government will increase inequality both in terms of students entering HE, and their graduate prospects.

That the Government has not listened to students and Students' Unions, who have consistently argued and lobbied against the flawed plans - This is our last stand.

That at executive council there was a good understanding of the impact of our participation in the NSS Boycott.

This Union Resolves:

To run a campaign to encourage third year Liverpool Hope University students to boycott the National Student Survey.

That LHSU will both fully and immediately, participate in the NUS NSS Boycott.

The campaign will be resourced as a Union-wide campaign, led by the Sabbatical Officers.

The Students’ Union shall make use of it’s social media platforms to persuade all third-year students to boycott the NSS.

Direct emails will be sent to all Liverpool Hope University third-year students informing them of the campaign and the importance of their participation.

**Policy Motion 16/17 E**

Sanitary is basic personal hygiene and a human right. products are expensive particularly on a student budget. The subject is unnecessarily seen as taboo.

This Union Believes:

That sanitary products should be made accessible to all students who are in need of them.

This union resolves:

To lobby the university so that sanitary products are made available in majority of toilet facilities around the campus including adapted toilet facilities which would make the accessibility of them all inclusive and trans inclusive. (not just available in female gendered bathrooms)