SRC #6 Minutes

Abertay SRC Meeting Minutes

Date: 22/03/2023 Time: 17:00 Location: MS Teams Video Conference

Chair: Lauryn Baldie

Clerk: Sophie Kennedy

Attendees: Ailish Reyes, Susan MacDonald, Olivia Morgan, Denis Dimitrov, Clare Brewster, Eilidh Fraser, James Nicholson

Housekeeping:

1) Welcome (what are you proud of?)

LB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone said something they were proud of.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from Robyn Thiel, Olivia Morgan, and Olivia Robertson. Jacqueline Dignan, Euan Hughes, Owen Harvey, Callie Kelly, Duncan Kelly, Klayton Matthews, Mark McFadden, Amy Ohkai, Chloe Peters, and Chloe Pirie were not in attendance.

3) Minutes of the Last Meeting (Paper #0 – 22.02.23)

The minutes were agreed to be accurate.

Open Business:

4) SLT Update

The housing group held a coffee afternoon and met to discuss how students feel about the quality and accessibility of safe, clean housing in Dundee. SK is currently developing a guide for student reviewers on PAAPs and other panels.

5) Campaign Updates

LB – The housing group met for free coffees.

OR - currently campaigning.

Reserved Business:

6) Society Council Update

DT was not in attendance in SRC, but LB was present. Nicky, Abertay Sport’s development intern was looking for ways to connect societies with less popular sports. AGMs are being planned and should be held before the end of Semester 2.

7) Eilidh and James – Lead Voices and Community Representatives

EF and JN were invited to SRC to discuss the Student Voice and how it can be better heard at Abertay. SK explained the structure of Student Representatives to EF and JN. EF explained that the University has no specific EDI department or officer, and that all senior management has a hand in ensuring equality and diversity are encouraged.

EF deals with EDI for staff, JN for students, Luke Millard for Teaching & Learning, Kathy-Ann Fletcher for specific projects, and Nia White for the Athena Swan Race Equality charter group.

EF explained the origins and purpose of the staff Lead Voices group. Students were also meant to be part of this group, but not enough applied. They meet every 6 weeks to discuss issues at a Lead Voice forum and work closely with Senior Management. The Lead Voices created the University’s Diversity Fest.

EF and JN wish to connect Community Reps with the Lead Voices.

LB asked if the Lead Voice roles were permanent positions. EF replied that they are intended to be a two-year term, but the COVID-19 pandemic hit when the Lead Voices were meant to be replaced. There has been some turnover, but most have been in post for five years.

LB asked how they would connect Lead Voices to the Community Reps. EF said that she can be contacted via email, and so can JN. The contact details for the Lead Voices are on the intranet.

They want to capture a holistic view of the Abertay experience by speaking to both staff and students. They are particularly interested in the Community Reps because they believe that when equality & diversity are addressed, everyone can feel involved and seen.

SM stated that having a Lead Voice contact would be hugely helpful and would find it a really good way to get a holistic view of the various communities at Abertay.

EF suggested having the Lead Voices and Community Reps meet once or twice a year in a workshop setting. SM said that networking with teas and drinks would be useful.

AR asked for clarification on the role of Lead Voices and whether they had the same general role as Community Reps. EF said yes. AR agrees strongly with linking up the people in these positions as the connections would be beneficial and it’s important to involve as many voices as possible. She believes that more sustained contact would be better, compared to meeting once or twice a year. EF agreed and stated that they’d like to involve Communit Reps in the running of events like the Diversity Fest.

CB stated that these events and partnerships must be promoted more heavily to students. SK agreed and said that the Association is always trying new ways to promote to students. LB backed this up, saying that engagement is always an issue for any university or Students Association.

Ef hopes that a potential partnership would become a virtuous circle for students and staff to feel included, involved, and understood.

LB asked what Jn thought of this and what his role was. JN state that his role is to facilitate the partnership and that he would be happy to fund catering for any potential events.

8) Trustee Recruitment

Several people put their name in the running for trustee recruitment, but only one was present at the meeting to discuss why they wanted to be a part of the panel. CB stated that she would like to get more involved in recruitment to ensure that the Students’ Association is equipped to provide support to students and work with the University.

CB was elected the SRC member of the Trustee recruitment panel with 4 ayes, 0 abstentions, and 0 nays.

Wrap-Up:

9) Any other Business

AbLE – embedding employability in the curriculum workshop was advertised to participants.

Hustings – SK informed attendees of the date and time and requested questions.

10) Date of next meeting

The next SRC will be held on Wednesday 26th April from 17:00 – 18:00.