

## CANTERBURY COLLEGE

### Minutes of the CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE CORPORATION WITH THE STUDENTS' UNION TUESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 1.00 PM IN J221

**MEMBERSHIP:** Corporation: *Colin Carmichael* (Chairman), *Steve Solly*, *Penny Williams*, *Alison Clarke* (Principal), *Bob Jones*, *Angela Tithecott*, *Danielle Banyai*

Students' Union: **Benjamin Gardiner**

**Guest:** **Eric Harmer, Pastor – Barton Evangelical Church**

**In Attendance:** **Sharon Hollingsworth** (Clerk to the Corporation)  
**Tony Payne** (Student Activities Manager)  
**Lut Stewart** (Director of Student Support Services)

**Student Union Representatives:-**

Tom Mills  
Hannah Watts  
Ollie Stokes  
Lauren Messenger

*Italics denotes absence*

In the absence of the Chair, Bob Jones took the role of Chair.

The Chair welcomed Members of the new SU Executive team and Eric Hamer, Pastor – Barton Evangelical Church and introductions were made around the table.

The Pastor of Barton Evangelical Church reported that he has the privilege of using the college facilities every Sunday. Over the past years he has been very impressed by the welcome and professionalism of all staff. The Pastor recognises that the College is an important part and benefit to the local community and if there is any way that he could be of value to the College he would be pleased to help.

**570 APOLOGIES  
NOTED**

- i. Apologies were received from Colin Carmichael and Penny Williams.

**571 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

- i. None declared.

**572 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

- i. The minutes of the 10 June 2014 meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

**573 MATTERS ARISING**

- i. All matters arising were taken into the agenda.

**574 PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
NOTED**

- i. To celebrate the start of term the SU hosted 'Freshtival'. Local bands renowned on the East Kent Music scene took part in the event. Stalls included free candy floss, the College sports teams' sign up, Amnesty International, NHS Sexual Health, Fit for Less, Outreach Africa and Go Canoe Wild. The event was a great success to help students' get off to a fresh start at College. It was reported that 'Get involved' surveys will help to measure the impact going forward.
- ii. The SU joined forces with Christ Church SU and Kent SU to fight against the governments proposed cuts to the Disabled Student Allowance. Local MP 'Julian Braizer' spoke with students about their personal experiences at the College and this resulted in Mr Braizer writing a letter to relevant people in support of the campaign. The campaign was successful and the cuts against the DSA have been postponed until 2017.
- iii. On the 4th April 2014 the SU ran a session in enrichment week for students to meet the local MP Julian Braizer. The session tested political responses from students ahead of the SU work for the upcoming election. Members were extremely complimentary in regard to the SU's strategy to engage students ahead of the election.
- iv. A separate freshers events for HE was ran this year to welcome students, this included performances from 'High Tide' band and welcome packs for each 1st year HE student. The SU also linked with UCA to run a week of fresher's events in the evenings including a pub quiz. The SU will continue to build on the positive work next year. Members recognised that the profile of HE students is very different to that of Universities and praised the SU on their worthwhile unique approach.
- v. Alongside the College the SU were nominated for the AoC NAMSS Award for Student Services.

- vi. The 'I ❤️ CONSENT' theme will be incorporated into the work of the SU around sexual health. The SU plan to run a 'Shag Week' and aim to do a 'Reclaim the Night' in Canterbury after the increase of attacks against women in the area. Workshops around consent and the Zero-tolerance the College has towards sexual harassment are planned. The SU are expecting this to be popular with students.
- vii. The SU rolled out welcome talks to some 1,780 students at the beginning of the year. During the welcome process students had been given the opportunity to take part in a small vote around current political groups which enabled the SU to establish where students are in terms of political knowledge and their engagement with politics.
- viii. The students voted Marie Curie to be SU charity of the year.
- ix. Eight of the ten newly elected officers attended in house training held at Swattenden Centre on the 26th and 27th of August 2014. The training was organised alongside South Essex College which provided a great opportunity to network and share best practice.
- x. On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014, the SU held a 'Great Gatsby' themed event in Chill nightclub to celebrate the end of the academic year. Almost 200 students attended the event that included a Champagne fountain, Casino Tables and a Balloon Drop. A Christmas event is currently being planned.
- xi. A number of SU Officers attended an event at the London O2 Arena on the 11th October 2014 for a day of inspirational speeches. The event was run by Ted Talks.
- xii. The SU have received £900 grant funding to help with their campaigns this year.
- xiii. For the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row the SU were nominated for an NUS award for 'Enterprise and Innovation'. The Committee praised the SU for their work and noted that this time they came runners-up to Aberdeen University.
- xiv. This year the SU campaigning focus will be on:
  - Green Impact/Sustainability
  - Voter Registration and voting in the General and Local Elections
  - Reviewing the student discipline system.
  - Developing an Education Policy (A new student charter)
- xv. It was reported that the current student discipline system is seen as a mechanism to push students out rather than pull them in to try to achieve. The SU aim of the campaign is to ensure that every student achieves.
- xvi. Members heard that the Education Policy campaign will focus on a partnership approach that every student can buy in to. The Policy will include clear student expectations that the College will need to meet or exceed.
- xvii. Trips activity planned for 2013/14 was noted.
- xviii. Members' congratulated the SU on their impressive work and wished them well in their future campaigns.

#### **RESOLVED**

- i. The President's report was noted

#### **575 TREASURER'S REPORT**

##### **NOTED**

- i. The update report showing the financial position of the Students' Union (SU) accounts was received by Members.
- ii. The financial statements up to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014 had been prepared, the figures have been provisionally agreed and the SU are awaiting final sign off.
- iii. The Students' Union produced a surplus of £1,362 last year and this was due to:
  - An increase in sales from NUS Card sales (£3,000 profit)
  - A grant from Get Set Olympics of £1,000
  - A video on equality and diversity for students
  - Contribution to community project with Kent Union and Christ Church
  - A successful end of term party
- iv. The SU's current bank balance is £4,036.27 with £10,975 in reserves for the HOUSE youth project.
- v. The SU are currently awaiting confirmation of their block grant for this year.
- vi. Members acknowledged that the SU had been very successful in regard to obtaining funding last year. Members questioned if funding would be a struggle this year; the SU reported that they would be exploring a number of opportunities and were hopeful of success.

#### **RESOLVED**

- i. The report was noted.
- ii. The SU to provide an update in regard to the HOUSE project at the next meeting.

The Pastor reported that he had found the meeting extremely useful. Involvement in some potential counselling work possibly involving L4 Counselling students was briefly discussed. The Director of Student Support Service agreed to explore this further with the Pastor.

#### **576 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

- i. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 6 March 2015 at 1pm in room J221.

#### **577 EVALUATION OF THE MEETING**

##### **NOTED**

- i. Members noted the evaluation from the March meeting.
- ii. Members of the Committee were asked to complete the evaluation of the meeting form.