

CANTERBURY COLLEGE

**Minutes of the CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE CORPORATION
WITH THE STUDENTS' UNION
MONDAY 3 DECEMBER 2012 AT 1.00 PM IN J221**

MEMBERSHIP: Corporation: **Colin Carmichael** (Chairman), **Vacancy**, **Grahame Ward**, **Penny Williams**, **Alison Clarke** (Principal), **Angela Tithecott**, **Bob Jones**

Students' Union: **Harry Fox**, **Josh Rowlands**

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

Student Union Representatives:-
Amy Phelan and Kurtis Cunningham

Italics denotes absence

**519 APOLOGIES / INTRODUCTIONS
NOTED**

- i. Apologies were received from Bob Jones, Grahame Ward, Harry Fox and Lut Stewart.

520 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- i. None

521 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- i. The minutes of the meeting of 15 June 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

- i. All matters arising were taken into the agenda

**522 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
NOTED**

- i. Introductions were made around the table.
- ii. The end of year Class Rep awards was a hugely successful event in recognition of the work that class reps had undertaken to make life better for students at the College.
- iii. The first Students' Led Staff Awards were held at the end of the last academic year. The Awards recognised the outstanding teaching at the College and those staff that go beyond the call of duty. Members noted the winners and the Student Union (SU) will continue to push the event this year. Members' commended the Student Union on its success of the new initiative.
- iv. Canterbury College Students' Union was voted the FE Students' Union of the year at the NUS Awards in July 2012. Members congratulated the SU on its achievements and noted that sustaining the performance will now be a challenge for the SU.
- v. Members noted that Josh Rowlands was nominated for the Learning Skills Improvement Service Learner Voice Award which highly commends the work that students do to promote the learner voice. The Award is run in conjunction with the NUS.
- vi. The SU was awarded a bronze Podium award for their work around building Olympic values into the curriculum.
- vii. A gold 'Be a Champion' award was awarded to the SU by the NUS for the work they did around the Olympics; this was the only gold award awarded to an FE Student Union.
- viii. Members noted that due to the Students' Union massive achievements in regard to the Olympics the SU were provided with VIP seats for both the Olympics and Paralympics; events included, handball, water polo, hockey and at the Paralympics, wheelchair basketball and athletics.
- ix. The Park and Ride Campaign led to the purchase of discount cards that made park and ride 50p less per day.
- x. The SU are currently continuing their work in regard to Post 16 travel. Members' noted that the cost of bus travel is around £520 per year, and requires students to pay a one-off payment. The SU advised that this can be difficult for students to pay in one hit and they will continue to campaign within this area.
- xi. SU Officers' attended a 2 day training event at Swattenden activities centre in August 2012. The training included team building activities such as river crossing, low ropes and postman's walk.

- Classroom based activities were also a key theme and SU Officers gained essential, skills, knowledge and experiences.
- xii. Welcome Video and Talks was noted. 116 welcome talks have been delivered by the SU Officers to classes which equates to around 2,320 students. Committee Members' were shown a short video made by ex-Canterbury College students' about the Union, which was also shown during the welcome talks. Members commented that the video was put together well; it was a quick and snappy way to promote the SU and praised the SU on their work. There had been a marked increase in NUS card sales, which is believed to be a result from the welcome talks.
 - xiii. SU advised that students' overall are much more aware of the SU and benefits it can offer; there appears to be a culture of openness and students are expressing their concerns more freely.
 - xiv. Members noted that 116 students' had signed up to the V-Extra; a new volunteering scheme, which included a sport element which was highly popular. Members noted that this scheme also promoted a healthy lifestyle theme.
 - xv. Key aims for this year in regard to 'Green Impact' is to improve sustainability throughout the College. Members' noted that the SU have signed up to the NUS Green Impact Awards and are aiming for Bronze accreditation at the end of this year. Initiative's include 'snap it' which involves taking photo's of green issues, finding ways to resolve the problem and taking a photo of the outcome.
 - xvi. The 'Tap Water' challenge was noted. SU have invested in a number of plastic bottles, which will be provided to students to try and reduce the amount of bottled water brought.
 - xvii. The 'Dairy Welfare' campaign was noted by Committee members.
 - xviii. The "Peace One Day" on 21 September 2012 campaign was noted as a highly successful event. The event was held at the Cathedral's Chapterhouse. Members' noted the high profile guest speakers and activities, it was also noted that event established further links with various community groups for similar future projects.
 - xix. Members noted that 50 students had attended the Higher Education (HE) Fresher's event this year. This was the most successful HE Fresher's event that the College has run. Members noted that following a UKC student survey, 69% of students had stated that the Student Union had made a positive impact.
 - xx. Student elections were noted as a success with increased candidates. In particular, Vice President (Higher Education) and Student Governor had seen an increase in candidates standing. Members' questioned the reasons behind the improvements; SU believed that it was a result from the welcome talks at the beginning of the year and promotion of the roles.
 - xxi. The SU will take part in the Disability Access Challenge this year and will work with the College to improve accessibility in the College and to raise awareness of how disabilities are viewed in particular invisible disabilities.
 - xxii. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Group held meetings on 16th & 18th October this year. Nine students attended the first meeting.
 - xxiii. The SU will focus on 'improving teaching' this year and will be conducting research to find out more about the student issues highlighted to them in regard to teachers failing to comply with the student charter, turning up late to lessons and not handing work back to students' within a two week deadline.
 - xxiv. Over 60 class reps attended the first union parliament meeting on 3rd October 2012. The meeting was a great success with plenty of new initiatives being discussed.
 - xxv. Over 100 class reps received training during the October half term.
 - xxvi. 'Amy's Roadshow', another successful initiative that had involved Student Officers going out into each Faculty to get to know the class reps, had provided an essential point of contact for them.
 - xxvii. Great Ormond Street Hospital has been chosen as the SU charity of the year.
 - xxviii. The NUS national Demo 2012 in November 2012 was noted.
 - xxix. All SU Officers attended the 'Festival' in Manchester which meant that a range of sessions could be attended.
 - xxx. There will be an emphasis on supporting students during exam periods.
 - xxxi. The Children in Need event "Pounds for Pudsey" was noted as a great overall success which received national television coverage. The event raised £1,321 for charity.
 - xxxii. Trips activity in 2011/12 was noted as good with 41 trips being organised and run.
 - xxxiii. There has been 40 trips already organised for this year.
 - xxxiv. Members' commented on the impressive work detailed in the President's report.

RESOLVED

- i. The report was noted.

523 TREASURER'S REPORT NOTED

- i. The update of the financial position of the Students' Union accounts was noted.
- ii. The financial statements up to 31st July 2012 had been prepared, the figures have been provisionally agreed and the SU are awaiting final sign off.
- iii. The current balance is £11,440 with £5 in reserve.
- iv. The SU suffered a slight loss last year due to the purchasing of capital equipment from the reserves, which was previously agreed by the College.

- v. SU are currently awaiting confirmation of their block grant for this year. The Principal advised that it is being discussed at the Corporation Meeting on 6th December 2012.

RESOLVED

- i. The report was noted and approved.

524 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

- i. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 9 March 2013 at 1pm in room J221.

525 EVALUATION OF THE MEETING

NOTED

- i. Members noted the evaluation from the November meeting.
- ii. Members of the Committee completed the evaluation of the meeting form.