

## CANTERBURY COLLEGE

### Minutes of the CONSULTATION MEETING OF THE CORPORATION WITH THE STUDENTS' UNION FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 1.00 PM IN J221

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

Students' Union: **Benjamin Gardiner**, **Heather Dower**

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

**Student Union Representatives:-**  
**Connor Glithero**

*Italics denotes absence*

#### 544 APOLOGIES NOTED

- i. Apologies were received from Angela Tithecott and Benjamin Gardiner.
- ii. Introductions were made around the table.

#### 545 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- i. None declared.

#### 546 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- i. The minutes of the meeting of 7 June 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

#### 547 MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Constitution of Canterbury College Students' Union.** The Student Activities Manager confirmed that proposals are currently being explored further with the new SU President. Proposals will come back to next meeting for further Committee discussion

#### 548 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- i. The eight newly elected officers all attended training on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The training was a great success and helped officers to bond as a group. Members noted there is a complete change of Officers within the SU executive team for this academic year.
- ii. The SU President attended Leadership training run by the NUS in July.
- iii. The SU ran two weeks of Fresher's, one for Further Education and another for Higher Education. Both were extremely successful.
- iv. The SU President carried out 'SU talks' to students as part of the Principal's welcome talks this year. The SU talks helped to raise the profile of the SU and gave students a better understanding of what the SU can do for them.
- v. The SU has identified "Cancer Research" as its annual charity.
- vi. The SU President took part in a 'Homeless Sleep Out' on 20<sup>th</sup> September and raised a total of £60 towards the (approx.) £24,000 raised by more than 40 businesses. The event was organised in aid of Porchlight and Catching Lives charities.
- vii. A new SU initiative 'Student Parent Party' is an activity-packed morning for children at the College to give parents an opportunity to better understand how the College can support them. More than 50 families attended the event and feedback was extremely positive. There were a range of issues discussed and a good number of Student parents from the 16-19 year old category attended. Committee Members were complimentary in regard to the new initiative and recognised that it had helped a number of students to look at alternative arrangements to help them stay on their courses. A second event is planned for December.
- viii. The College celebrated Black History Month throughout October. Students hosted and took part in special events to celebrate black history, arts and culture. The aim was to highlight the lives and achievements of black communities and individuals in the UK.
- ix. SU President and the SU Welfare Officer attended a Mental Health Conference run by the NUS on 8<sup>th</sup> October. The SU and Mental Health Tutors at the College are working together to form a "mind hub"

- to support students and staff that are suffering with mental health issues. The SU plans to sign up to the National "Time to Change" Pledge before the Christmas half term.
- x. Mental Health tutors at the College are also organising "Mindful Mentor" training on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November and further dates are being explored.
  - xi. Members were particularly interested in regard to the Counselling Service at the College. Members noted there was a year on year increase in the number of students using the service. Students had received expert advice which had helped to retain students who may otherwise have the withdrawn from the course.
  - xii. Following on from the success of the SU executive team last year of achieving a Bronze Green Impact Award, the current SU executive team will be aiming for the Gold Green Impact Award this year.
  - xiii. 150 Class Reps have now been trained this term.
  - xiv. The SU are planning a Comic-con mascot race on 15<sup>th</sup> November in aid of 'Be a Hero' for BBC Children in Need.
  - xv. SU won the NUS 'Campaign of the Year' Award for its work on Living Wage.
  - xvi. Higher Education SU Officer will write the Student Submission for the QAA report this year. Each element of the report will have students' views on what they like, what they want to change, and whether their requests have been met.
  - xvii. The SU work on learner voice was highly commended at the Learning and Skills Improvement Service Learner Awards. The SU were runners' up in the Provider of the Year Category.
  - xviii. 32 trips have been booked for this term. SU is currently exploring the Marlowe Theatre's Discovery Card as a discounted option for students.
  - xix. Members continue to be impressed with the work of the SU executive team.

**RESOLVED**

- i. The President's report was noted.

**549 TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NOTED**

- i. The update of the financial position of the Students' Union (SU) accounts was noted.
- ii. The accounts had been re-stated by the VP Finance and Corporate Services prior to the meeting to help clarify the position regarding the 'House' project. This was a tabled paper. A copy is filed with the minutes.
- iii. Members noted the £(9,049) over spend on the accounts. This was due to a number of factors such as the purchase of capital equipment from the reserves, commissioning a video on Equality and Diversity, advanced purchase of tickets for trips in 2013 and Officer training.
- iv. The SU are currently awaiting confirmation and payment of their block grant for this year.

**RESOLVED**

- i. The report was noted and approved.

**550 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

- i. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 7 March 2014 at 1pm in room J221.

**551 EVALUATION OF THE MEETING**

**NOTED**

- i. Members noted the evaluation from the March meeting.
- ii. Members of the Committee completed the evaluation of the meeting form.
- ii. Members would like to be updated on the progress of the House Project at future meetings.