Aston Students’ Union – Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

Thursday 29th of April 2021, via Microsoft Teams, 4pm – 5:15pm

Meeting is quorate

AGM agenda – Approved

Previous minutes – Approved

Attendees were given the option to vote yes, no, or abstain to motions proposed in the meeting via a poll.

Item 1) Motions

* **Honorary Lifetime Membership Nomination (UC2021.05.1a)**

*Motion proposes to award an Honorary Lifetime Membership to Lois Gaskell for her dedication, support, and engagement with all aspects of the Aston Students’ Union.*

Voting: Motion passed

* **The Amendment and Activation of a Welfare Committee**

*Motion proposes to amend the remit of the current Welfare Committee, including the roles on the Committee.*

Q: Will the new proposed roles be elected or volunteered?

A: The roles will be elected.

Voting: Motion passed

Item 2) Annual Accounts 2019-20

The Chief Executive of the Aston Students’ Union provided meeting attendees with an overview of the SU’s annual accounts for the financial year of 2019-2020, as well as the spending allocations for the 2020-21 budget.

Item 3) Trustee Board

Meeting attendees were shown a list of the Trustee Board members, including information about when they were appointed and their end of office dates.

Item 4) Auditors

The Chief Executive explained that it was agreed at the last AGM meeting that the Students’ Union will tender for new auditors, and this process will be taking place over the coming years.

Item 5) Affiliations

Meeting attendees were presented with a list of affiliations/key relationships that the Aston Students’ Union has.

Item 6) Governance Update

A new strategic framework for the Aston Students’ Union has been proposed for years 2021-2024, with a new vision, mission, and values. Meeting attendees were presented with the new strategic objectives and how these objectives will be facilitated.

Item 7) Updates from Full-Time Officers

*SU President:*

* Delivered on main manifesto pledge to lobby Aston University to divest from unethical sources, such as fossil fuel and arms companies.
* Successfully lobbied the University on increasing the library opening hours and mental health support.
* Improved the SU website and included new sections.
* Worked to ensure that SU staff are getting a fair deal at work.
* Successfully lobbied Birmingham student accommodation providers to be more flexible during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

*VP Welfare:*

* Launched the Student Wellbeing Call Centre at the beginning of March.
* Social media communications for elections and awareness days.
* Women’s History Month.
* Planning ‘Mental Health Awareness Week’ activities with the University.
* NHS Blood and Umbrella sessions on campus.
* Continuing to work on ‘Break the Silence’ campaign.

*VP Education:*

* Planning to review the policy on Academic Integrity.
* Working on decolonising the Aston curriculum.
* Planning to introduce a post-graduate section to the SU website.
* Worked with the University to implement the new ‘Safety Net’ policy.
* Organising focus groups for students to raise key issues within Colleges.

*VP Student Activities:*

* Planning for the transition back to campus for students.
* Preparing for the Aston Heritage campaign.
* Collaborating with the activities team for the ASU Awards and club & society elections.
* Enquiring further with other officers and Aston UCU head about the closure of history and languages degrees.
* Working with the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Group on Mental Health Awareness Week.

It was agreed that part-time officer updates would take place in the next Annual Members’ Meeting.

A.O.B.

N/A.

Next meeting in the next academic year.