

Meeting:	<b>International Exec</b>
Location:	<b>1 East Meeting Room/online</b>
Date & Time:	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 13:15-14:05</b>
<b>Present:</b>	
Blake Walker	Community Officer
Krisha Shah	International Exec Chair
Sharon Sankeerthana Palli	International Exec member
<b>In attendance:</b>	
Melissa Oram	Student Voice Coordinator
Konrad Rynski	Student Voice Assistant (Minutes)
<b>Item</b>	
1.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>No apologies were received.</p>
2.	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>The SU Community Officer (CO) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
3.	<p><b>International student engagement in SU events/activities</b></p> <p>Members stated that many students did not know a lot of the activities were taking place during Refreshers week. For example, very little people were aware of the activities event in the Edge, and did not receive communication about it.</p> <p>Members stated that social media is the preferred message of communication for many, but the announcements are often posted on the day. Posting them a few days prior would be more useful.</p> <p>Members agreed that emails are a good way of communication, but some students do not look at all of their emails due to their volume. Furthermore, students do not check the SU website for activities daily, so there needs to be some form of communication.</p> <p>There was a discussion around students often finding it difficult to open up, and needing a first push to join activities, societies, or groups. Members stated that a sizeable international student population prefers to keep to themselves, or are shy and scared of engaging in SU events. More in-person activities and especially activities around art and dance may help bring more international student engagement.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Come up with ideas and a solution in order to encourage students to get involved.</b></p>
4.	<p><b>Cost of living</b></p> <p>Members agreed that the cost of living crisis is affecting all international students. In particular, students often feel that the number of instalments to pay tuition and/or</p>

	<p>accommodation fees could be increased in order to lessen the financial burden. They are also often due to be paid at the same time, and many students find that difficult.</p> <p>Members also discussed the price of bus tickets and food on campus, both of which were deemed expensive.</p>
5.	<p><b>Exec feedback and training</b></p> <p>5.1 Members agreed that they have had a good start to their time as an Exec, and that it is still too early to discuss any major issues.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Discuss Exec feedback in a later meeting.</b></p> <p>5.2 With regards to training, members discussed that they would want to know what to expect in the whole academic year as an Exec, as well as what they should be doing in between International Exec meetings. Members would also like to learn about the specific purpose of the Exec and what kind of conversations they should aim to have.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Consider having standing items for meetings in order to plan discussion around current issues that international students are having.</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Next meeting priorities</b></p> <p>Discuss sport, sport activities and sport availabilities (e.g. booking rooms and play courts).</p>
7.	<p><b>Any Other business</b></p> <p>7.1 It was mentioned that U1/U2 buses on Sunday mornings are often late or not running at all, and as such it is difficult to get around. The CO stated that they will pass this feedback on.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Pass feedback on to FirstBus about the U1/U2 bus service on Sunday mornings.</b></p> <p>There was a discussion around social media and online discussion spaces for international students in order to get more of them involved, as well as to hear about student issues. Members proposed gauging the perspective and issues of international students through an anonymous form or questionnaire.</p> <p>Members argued that information about lecturer strikes was not necessarily seen or understood by international students, and wished that more information would be provided by the SU.</p> <p>Members also asked that more clarity and student support is provided by the SU around train strikes, including providing them with information about alternative travel options.</p> <p>The price of the gym membership on campus was mentioned, as students find that it is way more expensive than other gyms in Bath. Members argued that fitness should not be as expensive and such prices often put students off using the gym.</p>
<p><b>The meeting ended at 14:05. The next meeting will occur on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 12:15-13:05</b></p>	
<b>Item number</b>	<b>Action</b>

3	<b>ACTION: Come up with ideas and a solution in order to encourage students to get involved</b>
5.1	<b>ACTION: Discuss Exec feedback in a later meeting.</b>
5.2	<b>ACTION: Consider having standing items for meetings in order to plan discussion around current issues that international students are having.</b>
7.1	<b>ACTION: Pass feedback on to FirstBus about the U1/U2 bus service on Sunday mornings.</b>