

Chair: Carrie Allen

Secretary: Jade O'Dell (J.L.O'Dell@ljmu.ac.uk)

(Contact the Secretary to put something on the agenda, send your apologies for absence or to ask a question)

Date of meeting: Tuesday 15th November 2011

Venue: Café Drift, The Haigh Building

Codes:

JMcG- James McGarvey (Vice President Community Engagement)

TA- Tom Aldus (Vice President Community Engagement)

CA- Carrie Allen- forum chair

Q- Question, A- Answer, F- Feedback

Agenda Items

1	Welcome from the Chair, apologies and introductions		
5.30pm			
	Actions or decisions	Who?	Time
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the forum.	Chair	5

2	Ice Breaker and update of last forum		
5.35pm			
	Actions of Decisions	Who?	Time
	The group each introduced themselves with an interesting fact and which course they were on. Carrie recapped on the last forum (Student safety) and how James will be speaking to Liverpool City Council about where improvements could possibly be made.	Chair	10

3	Vice President; James McGarvey time		
5.45pm			
	Actions and Decisions	Who?	Time
	<p>James ran through his objectives one by one and spoke about his progress on each of them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Halls improvements- was aiming for 1 improvement in every hall and has had 409 responses to date 2) Rate Your Landlord-the committee has been set up and discussions are being held about collaborations with other Students' Unions. 3) Nursing welcome weeks- going to work with Sian (Marketing Manager) on what we can offer non standard starting courses 4) Placement research- finding out main issues with placements and how we can help to make changes 5) Green impact, an initiative to improve our sustainability as an organisation, is moving forward. <p>There was one question from the students present:</p> <p>Q: Will nurses Freshers include all sports teams?</p> <p>JMcG- Yes it will hopefully include everything the standard Welcome Week has.</p>	Vice President	5

4	Introduction to delegate positions		
5.50pm			
	Actions and Decisions	Who?	Time
	Debbie introduced each of the delegate roles that could be elected- Home, Community Cohesion, Anti Fascism and Ethical and Environmental- and asked people who were interested to speak with her at the break	Debbie	5

5	Interactive accommodation task		
5.55pm			

	What is this?	Who?	Time
	<p>Attendees were asked to comment on 5 aspects of accommodation they had experienced: 1) Expectations, 2) Actual, 3) Likes, 4) Dislikes, 5) What the union can do.</p> <p>Feedback:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Welcoming, working appliances, comfy beds, clean 2) Cold, rooms not ready, not clean, broken items, moving new people in with no notice, strangers, men moving in with 3 girls, photo's very different to reality. 3) Like: Quick to react to problems, security, good customer service, alarms, own space, freedom, bills included, good locations 4) Dislikes: Maintenance was not a priority, room checks were not pre-planned, no broadband, faulty internet, mouldy walls cold, bad complaints procedure 5) Idea of an honest guide for students which doesn't have just positives. <p>JMcG- A report will be put together to highlight both good and bad practise.</p> <p>Students stated they would like a guide which would prepare them on how to make decisions of where to live when moving to uni, and keep it honest.</p> <p>Also suggested the use of Facebook groups for feedback from previous residents and general sharing of information</p> <p>Q- How easy will it be to have landlords taken off the register?</p> <p>JMcG- That isn't necessarily our aim, we aim to be transparent and evidence good/bad practise</p> <p>Q- How are people expected to pay the same amount of money for a room regardless of the size, with landlords now extending contracts to Sept- which people can't afford</p> <p>JMcG- The main thing is not to rush into anything and take your time making the decision</p> <p>F- is there a way to specifically look for houses for final year students same as people specify male or female?</p> <p>F-students would like information on a map showing how</p>	All	20

	<p>far certain halls are from campuses to ensure good locations close to where they study</p> <p>James read out an email from as student unable to attend with accommodation complaints</p> <p>Students stated they felt they were being exploited as the standard of appliances didn't match the rent, they asked how much profit halls were actually making</p> <p>Moving out charges reported from attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £16 to move a bin bag • £25 to Hoover hallway • £20 to remove pins from a notice board • £30 to Hoover and wipe walls <p>TA- If you fight the charges more often than not you will win, but most students will not have the confidence</p> <p>Q- why is the final instalment of rent lower than the first two?</p> <p>JMcG- Will look into this</p> <p>Q- Where does deposit money go until it's returned?</p> <p>CA: Kept in a retainer account</p> <p>JMcG: It's important to document everything and take pictures when moving in somewhere for the first time.</p>		
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6	Break		
6.15pm			
	What is this?	Who?	Time
		All	

7	Delegates to stand		
6.45pm			
	What is this?	Who?	Time
	Students interested in becoming a delegate to stand	Debbie	5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 nominees for Vice Chair (Curtis, Jack, Steven) • 1 nominee for Home Delegate (Mike) • 2 nominees for Ethical and Environmental (Lara and David) • 1 for Community Cohesion and Anti Fascism (Danny) <p>All stated why they wanted the role.</p> <p>Attendees voted on each position</p>		

8	I.M Marsh parking		
6.50pm			
	What is this?	Who?	Time
	<p>James updated on the parking changes at I.M Marsh. Explained the proposal and told attendees how they can contest the changes. JMcG explained who it would affect; parents, people using the campus at nights (sports clubs etc).</p> <p>Attendees were asked to briefly write down any questions, opinions they had, on the back of the proposal maps which were given out</p>	James	5

9	Rate your landlord		
6.55pm			
	What is this?	Who?	Time
	<p>Introduction to the Rate Your Landlord campaign and general information from last year.</p>	Carrie	5

10	Interactive activity		
7.00pm			
	What is this?	Who?	Time
	<p>Students given flip chart and ask to draw the perfect landlord and what they think makes a good landlord using personal experience</p>	Carrie	15

	<p>Feedback:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Attentive, handyman, punctual, approachable 2) Foresees problems, not nosey, welcoming, fixes things, good time management, fair, thinking of ways to improve 3) Honest, reliable, gives notice for inspections, buys quality goods for the house, selective with tenants, 4) Puts students first, flexible working/contact hours, approachable, quality service, integrity, understands what students want <p>In response to feedback JMcG spoke about Liverpool Students lettings and how that is about getting value for money for students</p>		
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11	Prizes		
7.25pm			
	What is this?	Who?	Time
	<p>A raffle draw will done for the winner of LJMU hoody</p> <p>Drink diaries given out for the next forum</p> <p>Darren gave information about the Student Activist Day and Academic Forum</p>	Chair	5

12	Delegate winners announced		
7.35pm			
	What is this?	Who?	Time
	<p>Winners of delegate positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair- Curtis • Home Delegate- Mike • Ethical and Environmental- David • Community Cohesion and Anti Fascism- Danny 	Debbie	5

The date of the next Better City Forum is: 13/12/2011

The agenda and James McGarvey's report will be available on the LiverpoolSU website week beginning 6/12/11

