**MINUTES:**

**Union Council Meeting – 11/01/2022**

**Attendees**
Gaebriel Min
Sol Gjøines
Tripti Kaur Kohli
Albert Jose
Julia Pentz
Bianca Radoslav
Fee Hobbs

**Apologies**
Amanda Francis

Emily Screen

**No Apologies**

Oleksandr Aryku

Ben Powell

1. **Kara** gave an update on SU Elections 2022, expressing the need to increase voter turnout.
2. **Albert** raised the lack of international student engagement in the SU Elections and would like to see more engagement, particularly with Indian and Bangladeshi students. **Tripti** suggested that Union Council (UC) run some casual drop-ins in the Epsom canteen to meet students and talk about their role.

***Action: Tripti to plan an agenda for UC drop-in sessions.***

**Gaeb** asked for additional suggestions on how to engage students in elections. **Julia** suggested prizes. **Fee** said it’s not a lack of awareness of elections, it’s not knowing what UC and Presidents do. More awareness is needed. **Bianca** suggested having an information day on what UC do, talking more to students. **Gaeb** asked for support with getting students to vote.

***Action: Kara to involve UC in voter engagement plans and UC to help in getting students to vote.***

***Action: Gaeb to put together information around elections.***

**Albert** said we need to consider students who learn online, away from UCA as they may not feel part of the student body.

***Action: Kara to speak to UCA Global about potentially tailoring election comms to these students.***

1. **Albert** raised issues facing international students regarding accommodation, in particular the availability of housing and rental cost. **Fee** suggested a resource pack on how to find a house and what to do if a student doesn’t get into halls.

***Action: Gaeb will look into creating a resource pack / update current Housing Handbook***

**Julia** added that there have been a lot of maintenance issues with Farnham Halls, particularly at the start of term and raised the need for these problems to be sorted quicker. **Gaeb** said that the Presidents have been looking at the Student Warden structure.

**AOB**

* **Kara** gave an update on proposed changes to part-time officer roles for 2022/23 citing plans to greater involve next year’s cohort in the SU e.g. inviting officers to event meetings, asking them to help with planning for celebrations such as Diwali and gauging their opinion more.
* Reminder that 3 no-shows with **no** apologies to Union Council meetings will result in the officer’s Union Councillor role being rescinded.

**The next meeting will be on 15/02/2022 at 3:30pm.**