



Leicester 100 meeting minutes

Introduction

Victoria Boulton, the Students' Union Chair, opened the meeting thanking everyone for attending the meeting.

Victoria explained that quorum for Leicester 100 is 75. The meeting had 98 people in attendance, so the meeting was quorate.

Proposals

Allow neurodivergent students extra time in assignments - Olivia Phoenix

Victoria invited Olivia Phoenix into the room, where she provided an overview of the policy she presented. Main points included:

Olivia is dyslexic and applied for mitigating circumstances due to her neurodivergence, however this was not accepted as it was not seen as "unforeseen". The University should be aware of this problem, called a loophole, and support students. This led to the proposal, in which students with learning difficulties and neurodivergence can get extra time for their assignments.

Olivia also did research into this subject, and discovered that students with neurodivergence are protected under the Equality Act (2010) and the University has a duty to support students. Students can get extra time for exams, but not assignments. DSA advises that students have extra time in assignments, but the University has told Olivia this is just a suggestion. Olivia also shared that due to an administration error, she had received extra time for her assignments which was very helpful. Olivia also carried out a poll and one response that it was a matter of equity.

Olivia proceeded to answer questions from Leicester 100, including:

Q- How long do you suggest students will get for extra time?

A - Students with Dyslexia and Dyspraxia would get around the 25% mark, the same as those same students would get in exams.

Q – What about students who have not been diagnosed, or are going through diagnosis. Also, students with other long term health conditions that effect cognition?

A - Students with long term disabilities can get mitigating circumstances through flare up form. Students awaiting diagnosis can get an official letter which would be acceptable – and this was discussed in Academic Council.

Q- Mitigating circumstances require a doctor's note, would you want this to keep going?

A - This is only for certain conditions, not neurodivergence, and therefore wouldn't change.

Victoria invited the room, and those online, to discuss the idea. Key feedback points included:

- It was noted that 25% extra time wouldn't work for some final year assignments, and the concerns around students without a timely diagnoses was raised again. Members were also concerned about potential abuses of the system.
- It was commented that 25% is standard for mitigating circumstances – therefore this new policy would simply be equalling the game
- It is standard practice at other universities, allows students to have their own time to process, and ensures students are able reach their own potential
- Line between what is neurodivergence would need to be evaluated, and would need to be checked, but as a policy makes perfect sense
- There was another suggestion that 25% would be too much, and therefore it should be done on a case-by-case basis. There was also some concern it would affect the marking turnaround time
- Another note was that the proposal could be considered vague – and that students could take advantage of the extra time. This might also lead students to not be able to reach their full potential. It was suggested that in exams, it made sense to have extra time. but not in assessments that are longer (i.e. a month)
- There was a suggestion that there could be a trial with courses with higher rates of neurodiversity
- It's hard to get diagnosed in the UK and NHS waiting list time is longer than the length of a degree – counter to this, it was noted that students who are currently on a waiting list to be diagnosed are able to access AccessAbility, which would then allow them to use their neurodivergence as a valid reason for extra time- there doesn't need to be a full diagnosis just steps being taken to achieve one.
- Students with long-term conditions like Long Covid are already allowed extra time under the current policy
- Many physical conditions are “not unforeseen” and yet you can get mitigating circumstances for them so it wasn't seen why other conditions should be any different
- It's a good idea but needs to be equitable for all - either all students should be able to apply for mitigating circumstances, or all students registered as disabled with the university should be allowed extra time (if they want/need it). In response to this point, it was clarified that all students *can* apply for MC, but currently those with neurodivergence are being denied extra time because their condition is not "unforeseen" (as it would be if someone were in an accident, for example). Whereas it needs to be treated the same as long-term condition which can, and does, flare and cause issues
- It was noted it would give any student with neurodivergence the chance to apply for mitigating circumstances because of issues with focus, processing, executive dysfunction, etc

Out of 94 voting members, 74 voted to pass the policy (79%), with 14 against (15%) and 6 abstains (6%). The proposal passed and Victoria invited Leicester 100 to provide feedback on how this idea could be implemented.

Discussion

Value for Money Discussion

Emma Reed, Academic Rep Coordinator at the Students' Union, was invited to provide an introduction for a discussion on Value for Money. As part of this discussion, Leicester 100 answered the questions below on their tables, or online via the Teams' chat:

- What do you understand by the term "value for money" in the context of your student experience?
- What information would you need in order to be able to assess that your experience at the University of Leicester has been value for money?

It was noted this was not a discussion over whether students considered that they had received value for money in their own courses, but what they thought of when they considered when they heard the term "Value for Money"

Key Comments from this discussion are available in an appendix to these minutes.

Policies

Victoria introduced the Lapsing Policies, which were shared with Leicester 100. They were given a short time to discuss each policy, before voting on whether they thought the policy should be renewed, lapsed, rewritten as a new policy.

Vote Results

All the proposals that were presented will be taken to the final Leicester 100 meeting, following an indicative majority vote for renewal in the meeting, where they will be voted on to be renewed or lapse. The policies include:

- Activities Officer Role Description
- Black Role Models
- Boycott The Sun Newspaper until Page 3 is removed
- Digitising All Required and Suggested Readings
- Disinvestment Defence
- Leafleting during Elections
- Listing the full ingredients on all products in the Library cafe and Delicious
- Lobby City Council to Rename De Montfort Hall
- Referendum: Vote of No Confidence in the Vice Chancellor and the Executive Board
- Support for the Prescription Charges Coalition
- Support Student Sex Workers
- To make exams fairer for all by implementing an "exams48" policy
- To support the campaign for DSA
- Wasted Food
- Workers' Rights Consortium.

Officer Updates

The President of the Students' Union, Joshitha Venkataraman, provided an update on her recent projects and events. Joshitha informed the room that she had lobbied the university to support students whose resit deadlines clashed with their visa deadline, which resulted in a change the deadline, a success for the students. It was also noted that due to further

lobbying, the extra fees change due to an extended deadline also wouldn't be applicable, and wouldn't be charged again in future.

Joshitha also spoke about her role on Black Student Experience group, and a recent "Bridging the gap" event, which was in collaboration with the university.

Joshitha has also been working on Mental Health Initiatives, including the recent DeStress week, which was a success.

After Joshitha, Reed James also gave an update. This included the following:

- Launched a new self-serve station in the David Wilson Library Café
- Implemented a Campus Foodbank Hub
- Lobbied for more support for students without guarantors in the University and in Parliament
- Arranged for student voices to be back on disciplinary panels
- Finalised the Students' Unions' FIRST sustainability plan - including free carbon literacy training for all students.
- Go Green Day is coming up

Food Prices Update – Grace Lewis-Bettison

Victoria invited Grace Lewis-Bettison to give an update about the Food Prices Campaign.

Grace provided an update via Teams, noting that the Task and Finish Group have been in meetings with Leicester Food and Drink to discuss potentially implementing a savers line of food. Grace is also now in the stakeholder group as the student delegate to make sure student perspective is heard properly, and, hopefully, she will also be working with them to implement hot food machines on the Brookfield campus

Reed James also summarised Grace's comments to members in L100 in the room.

Close

Victoria thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked that everyone checked they filled in the attendance form.

Attendance:

Aalok Gohil

Aaron Joseph George

Abby Simpkin

Abim Ibitoye

Adam Morgan

Aimee Childs

Aisha Nana Muhammad

Amrit Dhot
Ansel Ong
Anushka Agarwalla
Atrindu Mukherjee
Avinaba Majumdar
Avtar Singh
Ayinawu Abdul-Samed
Ben Greatorex
Ben Jackson
Bernard Kyaluzi
Charlotte Chapman
Charlotte Shenton
Christina Oyalegan
Clement Uanseru
Cleophee Cornou
Cynthia Warutere
Edward Holloway
Elizabeth Shaul
Ella Chadwick
Ella Moursel
Elsa Darr
Emily Culshaw
Emma Good
Erin Stoves
Esha Mahmood Ramzan
Esther Gbadebo
Ethan Woodhead
Hannah Troop
Ibrahim Christopher
Isabel Higham
Isaiah Meadows
Ishan Bhakta

Janine Samji
Javeria Mahmood
Jay Gill
Jessica Danquah
Jude Macnab
Khadeejah Pirzada
Kweku Yamoah
Leon Lehal
Lisa Martin
Lucy Arnill
Mahathi Masanam
Mahnoor Raja
Manraj Layal
Marianna Kalantzi
Megan Ives
Megan Memi
Mohammed Siddiqui
Molly Mather
Molly Taylor
Monica Patel
Muhammad Qaasim
Nadia Hossain
Nasar Yamin
Natalie Hayward
Nawar Nusaiba
Niamh Perks
Nimi Manku
Oliver Jeffery
Olivia Phoenix
Paarth Acharya
Paras Chopra
Qaisara Yasin

Rachel Eng
Raj Vaghela
Rama Dhanda
Sabeel Suleiman
Samad Nawaz
Sean Gjoka
Seher zainab
Shamiso Sheta
Shivani Gundla
Sonia Shah
Svetlozar Ivanov
Syed Usama Meer
Tanvi Indoria
Tanya Ori
Tea Kreka
Tega Adaware
Theo Robinson
Tyler Omurca
Uday Vikas Chary Ausali
Vatsal Pareshkumar
Vinay Reddy Thudi
Vlad Makar
Wasiu Omoniyi
William Blewitt
Yendi Ayendwa
Zihua Wang
Zohran Arif

Apologies: Christine Matthews, Rufaro Chitenga, Ajit Arjun Pawar, Hannah Burke, Sam Ashton, Izzy Marks, Diya Kulshreta

Minutes compiled by Emma Reed.