

Minutes:

Young Liberals Federal Executive Meeting

25/04/2020 (Virtual)

Apologies

Finn Conway, Finance Officer
Sophie Thornton, Campaigns Officer
Chris Annous, BAME Officer

In Attendance

TC Tara Copeland, Chair
DS Dan Schmeising, Communications Officer
JB James Bliss, Policy Officer
KM Katharine Macy, Diversity and Accessibility Officer
CMcD Catriona McDougall, International Officer
AH Alex Howarth, Membership Development Officer
GB Guy Benson, Non-Portfolio Officer
AR Andrew Reynolds, Chair, Scottish Young Liberals
CH Chloe Hutchinson, Chair, Welsh Young Liberals
JW Jack Worrall, Chair, English Young Liberals
CF Chessie Flack, Liberal Democrat Youth and Student Development Officer

Late Attendance

CM Charlie Murphy, Vice Chair
FC Finn Conway, Finance Officer
CA Chris Annous, BAME Officer

No Apologies

Michael Chappell, Events Officer

Drafted and taken by:

Charlie Murphy, Vice Chair
Guy Benson, Non-Portfolio Officer

Speaker Point

Freshers Campaign

- CH** Raises that there may be disruption to Freshers, and that in Wales a number of ideas had been flagged in relation to this.
- CF** Suggests that it is likely that universities will come back digitally after the summer. London School of Economics will do so, and it is possible that this will

be replicated in other universities around the country.

- DS** Agrees with ideas raised by **CH**, and proposes a separate channel in the Young Liberals Discord server for Welsh Young Liberals.
Raises idea of running a large social media campaign alongside the federal party
- GB** Reminds executive of proposal for a consultation on Freshers, and that we could start asking the membership for their ideas relatively soon.
- TC** Agrees with consultation, and suggests that **CH** and **AR** do separate Typeforms for the states.
- Action Points** **ST** to draft consultation Typeform and send to **CF** for implementation.
DS to establish WYL channel in YL Discord.
DS to follow up about federal party ads for Freshers
AR and CH to follow up on establishing state Freshers consultations

Webinars and Training

- TC** We've heard from 5MPs about Q&A sessions, with Ed on the 29th, and proposals for Wera and Sarah on the 6th and 9th respectively. Aware of AMs, Caroline Pidgeon and MSPs which could be considered also in the case of States and London.
- CF** Reminds executive of the need to host all virtual events through a secure Zoom account, which is managed through HQ to account for appropriate security measures.
- GB & CH** Propose Peers and Jo Swinson for webinars
- AH** Nothing has moved ahead with plans with ALDC, but he will talk to HQ about webinar training.
- JW** Feels as though there's a skills gap where EYL aren't trained in using all of the available software. Asks if **AH** can facilitate YL training.
- CF** Says that HQ data staff member is happy to run connect training, and can ask training staff about Affinity training, and membership about Lighthouse.
- CH** Suggests fundraising and confidence-building skills training, mentions working on Zoom training with HQ for local parties
- KH** ((Sweathouse?? Who's KH? Lots of questions.))
- TC** Discussion upcoming soon on how the party as a whole can do better on providing training

Editor's note: OSKAR should also be considered a resource when considering training, but is entirely under the remit of the larger party.

- KM** Is chasing up LGBT+ and BAME webinars which will be mostly social for now.
- CMcD** Suggests doing webinars on areas of International activities where members aren't familiar. First proposed is LYMEC bureau. Opportunity to hand out materials, and fairly flexible on allocated time slots so can be used as a filler.
- TC** Agrees with point raised that activities need spacing out, but suggests that webinars and activities should be spread into July. **GB** also proposes events around Pride.
- CH** Agrees that early summer is a good time for IO activities, due to those who may have been due to start studying abroad. **CMcD** agrees that this could be possible but that she is seeking open timetable slots at any point.
- AH** Suggests calendar to help exec and members keep track.
- CM** Raises that this has been attempted before, urges caution around excessive notifications depending on the setup.
- JB** Proposes weekly discussion on a policy area to inform and engage members prior to Zoom events so that members aren't coming up with things on the fly.

ERASMUS+ Campaign

- AH** Reminds executive of ERASMUS+ Campaign previously proposed.
- CMcD** Mentions LYMEC campaign on ERASMUS+ links to UK being maintained.
- Executive agree that not much discussion can be had around ERASMUS without **ST** in attendance. Consensus to move to digital campaigning as planned, but to hold off while COVID-19 is still such a prominent issue to avoid being insensitive.

Follow-up on Liberal Democrat leadership election

- TC** Federal Appeals Committee decided that once the existing crisis has passed, then Federal Board should move to hold leadership election as opportunity arises. Mentions that there was broad agreement on FB to comply and hold election as it becomes possible.
- JW** Asks for information on survey of members about leadership election.

TC No information about survey to hand, but numbers from the survey can be made available. Proposes that it is politically difficult to have the leadership election too soon, and it would reflect very badly in the media in the current climate. **GB** prompts the use of the member survey YL carried out.

Proposed Age Range Changes

AH Typeform on age range changes pretty much ready to launch

DS Has prepared Ad-Lib article which is ready to go. Possibility of an all party member email in addition.

Exec discusses voting on accepting members from 26-30 individually or in batches, but agrees that voting on members being accepted wouldn't be appropriate unless in the case of a serious welfare concern.

CF If in future exec members are to be DBS checked to allay any concerns about welfare, this would have to be an expectation upon their election. Notes that checks are non-transferable from other organisations. Reminds exec members of formal channels that exist with welfare, firstly Chessie as YL staff member, otherwise the relevant member of staff in the party.

It is proposed that there is a defined 'welfare' page on the website. **CH** suggests that there's also a discussion on how societies and branches may be supported. **AH** notes that societies are part of Students Unions when it comes to welfare issues within themselves.

CMcD Offers to feed in on issues around welfare and events due to previous role where **MC** may be unsure. **CF** notes it may be best to have a welfare policy in this area.

Young Liberals Conference

JW Updates executive about YL Conference from Conference Committee. Neither August or Brighton seem like feasible opportunities. Proposal for before August online conference, which **JW** has researched and made a proposal.

Proposed Enforcement of Exec Regulations

Exec discuss regulation around the duty of officers to send apologies and reports to exec meetings, particularly with regard to the sitting Events Officer, Michael Chappell.

If the Events Officer is considered to have resigned, Catriona McDougall and Jack Worrall will be happy to complete the role where they have experience,

until a cooption is made.

Exec agree that a co-option is all that is required and would be less disruptive than a by-election in this event, and aim for a co-option to be done by the end of May.

Note: The exec is informed of Michael Chappell's resignation which is sent in during the discussion.

Meetings with Liberal Democrat President, Mark Pack

- TC** Has spoken with Mark Pack about setting up regular meetings with him and other exec members. Mark understands YL is a large SAO. **TC** suggests that it highlights the need to publicise YL and YL's work to the wider Liberal Democrat membership, and this could be done with the help of figures in the party who are supportive of YL.
- CM** Notes some well-known party members have held high office within the party and in public office, mentions Jane Brophy as a former MEP and former Young Liberals chair.
- JB** Encourages cooperation with the party's planned SAO review.

NHS Campaign

- CA** Home Office has only extended NHS visa by a year. Polls show over 90% in support of allowing in more doctors, so believes there's a genuine opportunity to successfully make a change. Proposes an email campaign encouraging LD members to sign petition.
- CH** Raises medical students and their relation to Home Office, particularly tier-4 students.
- GB** Suggests making the issue cross-party with other youth wings, proposes a letter which other youth wings may sign, possibility to branch out to Alliance so that they may invite other NI parties.
- CA** Proposes that the line should be NHS workers should be allowed to stay, and as an umbrella that includes students but keeps message more powerful.
- CF** Highlights that the federal party is doing a lot already on this issue, and it may not be appreciated and entirely supported if YL comes up with very similar idea separately.
- Exec agree letter to be drafted ready to distribute to other youth wings.
- CH** Second year nursing studies can continue studying but only if they spend 80% of time on covid wards, in Wales paid, and the rest in academic study, or they suspend their studies. Not a fair choice especially with severe financial

implications and whether the students are classed as key workers (thus getting access to services such as childcare)

Candidate Approval

- CH** Raises Y&W support and asks what could be done to support selections
- CM** Proposes publication of fee waiver which younger members can get to make candidate approval more financially feasible.
- JW** Suggests mentoring program
- AH** Raises training webinar on selection and being a candidate
- TC** Unlikely to be actioned fully until pandemic is over due to selection processes currently not proceeding. Likely to be handed over to the next executive.

Young Liberals Zoom Business

- TC** Proposes purchasing Zoom access for Young Liberals
- CF** Must go through HQ, Typeform request is available. Security important, so **CF** will get link on Monday
- FC** Says that budget has ample room for Zoom or Canva membership due to other activities being cancelled.

Election Review

- JW** Asks if there can be more oversight and input on targetting.
- CF** Hasn't heard much on the election review as a whole, including targetting, but keen to feed back.

Military Policy

- TC** Idea has been raised to increase minimum enlistment age to 18 from a charity contacting YL. Charity highlights belief that it is dubious for the armed forces to target 16-year-olds where many other countries do not.

JB to consider and reply.

Votes at 16

TC Support requested can just be an article with a petition to share, believes we can just express interest.

Young Liberals Forum

CM Raises concerns with regard to moderation of comments which concern exec members. Wanted to flag issue with the exec before coming back with a proposal on how to avoid in the future.

Emails

CF Flags issue with who has access to various role-named emails.

Many officers do not have access to the email which is named as their portfolio.

AOB Ends. Meeting closed 14:40.

Note: During this meeting, the executive was informed of Events Officer Michael Chappell's resignation. For the time being until co-option, other officers on the executive, as named, will take on these responsibilities which will be confirmed in an announcement to members.