



Federal Executive Meeting
Saturday 21st December 2024

11:00

Google Meets Link:
YL Exec Meeting

<https://meet.google.com/orx-dimv-rti>

Minutes

The meeting commenced at 11:06.

Attendance

Present:

HJ - Harvey Jones

LN - Lucas North

TH - Tom Hughes

RF - Rowan Fitton

TJ - Tom Jordan

UA - Ulysse Abbate

RJ - Rebecca Jones

CL - Chang Liu

JLM - Josh Lucas Mitte

AG - Alex Gallagher

BF - Bex Foulsham

HTB - Harvey Thomas-Benton

AW - Arthur Wu

CJL - Callum James Littlemore

WT - Will Tennison

SA - Sarah Anderson

LD - Leo Dempson

Apologies:**Samuel Wilson****Oliver Jones-Lyons****Absent:****Timi Jibogu****Welcome, Apologies, Exec Member of Month (HJ)**

HJ: Honourable mention to Sarah, Bex and Rebecca. Jointly awarded to Ulysse and Harvey for policy committee, and Harvey stepping up for writing minutes.

BF: Honourable mention to the diversity committee who supported BF/RJ in writing the statement against banning puberty blockers.

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising (HJ/HTB)

HJ: Apologises for not meeting the first action point.

CL: Believes accreditation has been updated on website.

RF: Apologises for not sending someone to comms/campaign committee.

HJ: Reminds people to sign the petition, as per previous meeting.

RJ: Spoke with JLM for a survey on diversity data for EYL, and the diversity committee is developing a model survey for this. Not yet received anything from SYL or WYL, and would prefer to see a survey go out to branches and regional parties.

HJ: Minutes approved after a vote.

Budget Discussions(LN)

LN: Runs through projected numbers for the end of 2024. Revenue was a bit behind, in particular on merchandise. Higher revenue in freshers, due to the Welsh Party. Selling costs were higher for merchandise selling, costs for infrastructure were slightly higher. Conferences cost higher than expected, but higher revenue came out of them. Underspent on young and winning. We are expecting a £5612.80 deficit.

CL: Asks about branch development funding.

BF: Asks about how much we have in reserves, due to the deficit.

LN: 21 and a half thousand in reserves.

UA: Could we break down revenue from each place for freshers? To find what worked in terms of data, especially policy direction branches took.

LN: This data should be available.

UA: Asks about Confera and who would handle it if/when Lucas goes

LN: They will train new people to handle Confera.

RF: Asks about freshers and additional costs

LN: The actual overspend ends up being 31 pounds. The Welsh Party wants bilingual materials, which increases the costs. The mix and match approach increases the costs.

TJ: Could this spreadsheet be made accessible to exec?

LN: Will be made accessible at a later date, as a reference point.

TJ: Asks about merch not raising money.

LN: Hoodies struggled to sell at Brighton Conference, and a broader dip in sales, when we aren't pushing for online sales. A large portion of the last exec without a fundraising officer will explain this.

RF: Costs were offset by fundraising by previous international reps. Asks about donations, what portion were ring fenced

LN: Will report back, with an accurate number for special purpose donations.

RF: Asks where they are shown on this accounting file.

LN: They will be submitted to the electoral commission.

SA: Asks about donations and increasing them

LN: Drop off compared to 2023. General Elections are not good for YL, people donate to other parts of the party. We never did that fundraising drive plan which was meant to raise £1000.

LN: Revenue will be similar to last year, with the hope of a Fundraising Rep for the whole year. English Party Grant will reduce, EYL retaining more than prior years.

TJ: Predicting a bounce back in merchandising, and how likely is that

LN: Merch, donation and sponsorships are a combined predicted figure.

CJL: We have stock on hand, which reduces some costs this year on making some. Intends to have the job for the whole term which will help drive fundraising.

TJ: Handed over our merch to LibDem image, asks how that has been.

CJL: Heard nothing from them.

LN: As far as they know, nothing has been sold through them.

RF: Asks how the exec can help with a donation drive

CJL: It should be all of our aims to drive donations, we should be working towards outreach. He is reaching out with MPs and Peers. Be good ambassadors for YL.

RF: Asks if some sort of fundraising training would help

LN: Staffing will increase slightly, in conversation with HQ. Xero to be fixed. Reduction in Exec travel, one in person meeting in the year and handover for 2025. Web hosting will likely stay the same, a homegrown solution outside of fleet could reduce that. Canva fixed. Contracted for Harrogate for Confera, it's a one off cost.

TJ: IFLRY and LYMEC figures are just for membership. Looking for state funding to help.

LN: Worth noting lowest international figures have been for years.

TJ: This is what TJ and RF have asked for. Accepted that federal is cutting international funding.

LN: ALDC proposes to remain 0, and no state grants. EYL will have parent funding by retaining grants. Winter Conference has been budgeted at 5000, the 2k overspend is for access fund. 11k is a net spend of 5k.

Membership development, and Young and Winning being cut to 0. These fundings are more tokenistic.

HJ: There will need to be an amendment to executive regulations to have one in person meeting.

WT: Membership Development was through private donations.

RF: Recognition that costs need to go down, there is a sale that can be pitched here. Fundraising can happen here. On Young and Winning / ALDC, avoid duplicating actions from other parts of the party and AOs. Would it have been better to redistribute that money elsewhere? We still need to help young candidates.

LN: Original proposal had an entry level spending for both, however, it was offset by having an online winter conference.

CL: Asks about branch development fund reduction down to 500.

Contextualising this by the fact we are setting up new branches. We will have more branches with less money. Branches find cash the most helpful, and can set up bigger events.

LN: Every number has gone down, we have taken tough decisions to cut spending across the board. We cannot keep the same level of spending, without increased revenue.

RJ: Asks about requiring the cheapest route to the exec meeting.

LN: The advice is to take the cheapest reasonable route. LN reviews this when looking at it.

BF: Asks about diversity in relation to Young and Winning. We struggle to get more diverse people to stand. A membership development scheme makes more sense here, not a form of candidates. Long term future proofing and training would be better to reach this aim.

UA: Talks about learning from IFLRY revenue and budget more broadly, about how we can learn from them.

TJ: Centre Party of Sweden gives money to IFLRY for two years.

UA: Opportunity to talk with Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD).

TJ: Has met with people about setting up an office and exploring this. The apolitical nature of WFD and ring fenced spending makes problems domestically. It would not help supplement our budget.

UA: Council of Europe grants. Wonders if we can seek to get international funding back into YL, and develop a bit of an access fund for international. Mentions Friedrich Nauman Foundation (FNF) helping.

TJ: Notes meeting with FNF should be a priority.

WT: Notes that not having an in person conference in winter would be a mistake. Notes it's a shame to see Young and Winning at 0, but understands. Would like to see different ways we can help disadvantaged candidates.

SA: Asks about details on how EYL plans to spend their retained money.

JLM: only had a preliminary meetings so far. The focus is on development of branches. Not fully decided how that will work yet. Detail will be decided in January, and will work in response to YL budget.

HJ: Can money from EYL be able to support young candidates in local elections in England this year? Can be supplement YL spending cuts.

JLM: There is scope to do this. Questions how meaningful the size of the cash would be.

SA: We should be pointing English branches to EYL, in order to secure our money.

RF: Asks if YL projects could be into WFD, but the response was not that promising. The interest was strengthening relations in Africa and Asia. FNF fund projects, not organisations. We need to develop a project, which would interest them and pitch it to them to attract funding. These will not fix our general spending.

LN: Last few years we have tried to fund what we could, due to us being in the run up to an election. We have problems with costs increasing, and donations dropping off. We need to think more long term. If this budget goes to plan, we will still be worse off than the start of 2024. We will need to find new ways to raise revenue. The deficit approach no longer works.

CL: EYL is planning to keep 6k, and questions how branch development. Our branches are not evenly spread across regions equally. Suggest that if that's the case, Federal should only be spending on Scotland and Wales.

JLM: It will be 5k, and it will not all be for branch development. At least 1000 will be for access fund for regional conferences. General development, but this will be defined more in January when the new exec meets.

CL: Pushes that EYL should foot the bill of branch development this year in England, due to the cut in branch development.

JLM: EYL will reconsider how it spends its money for federal as the year goes on. Forces some better cooperation between Federal and EYL. The English Party looks at what EYL is doing, so EYL has to prove its worth.

CL: Asks if he can forward branch development stuff in England to JLM.

JLM: Yes, this can happen.

LD: Conference is the best thing we do. SYL is willing to put more money to federal activities, when fundraising is increased. Suggests the idea of reviewing the budget again throughout the year.

AG: Understands why Young and Winning was cut, would like an EYL replacement scheme due to local elections being in England this year.

TJ: It is an exceptional budget, a 12k budget cut. We are not in a nice place right now. Appreciates LN for this. Talks about sustainable funding, what attracts donations and investment in YL. People can be quite dismissive of YL. Membership development and upskilling will be a tangible project which is attractive for funders. We need to develop ways to build in-house specific asks for donors. It is a tough budget to make, but happening for a reason.

HJ: Thinks LN has handled the situation very well, giving the tough nature of this budget. Not funding things doesn't mean things disappear. As Chair, he will reach out to AOs and other parts of the party which will be effective in filling gaps.

LN: We have to take really tough decisions. We are doing as much as we can with what we have. We can find new revenue streams. This budget will help rebuild our reserves. We are working towards the goal of the surplus budget, as agreed at the handover meeting. Appreciates that not everyone got what they wanted. We will review the budget throughout the year.

The budget was passed unanimously.

Action: LN and CJL explore fundraising training

Branch accreditation (CL)

CL: Wants us to accredit tunbridge wells branch. They hold regular events, and have a stable membership.

Accreditation was voted for unanimously.

Action Point: CL/SA update the website

Officers Reports: Questions (HJ)

TJ: Asks about not submitting reports.

HJ: Reached out to OJL for apologies, and hold meeting with

HJ: Asks about friends of YL to WT and SA

WT: A form has been set up and a webpage is in the works for that to be set up after the festive period. Wants to send a newsletter to a focus group to see what works. He wants a quarterly newsletter, with specific asks like future councillors, or conferences. Make a donation will be added to the newsletter everytime.

SA: The pages have been set up. Asks people to send work to her now as she has free time

HTB: Asks about diversity plan and when that'll be progressed

HJ: An outline structure will be developed this week, and be sent to BF/RJ. The Christmas break will be progressed on this. I want this approved asap in January.

HJ: Asks CL about questions to branches about diversity data

CL: 8 branches have responded to him. He is planning to email regional chairs in the New Year. Good idea about their activities, events and relationships with local parties. Some branches want a website, and notes about a Wordpress website.

LN: This would be something to take forward into 2025.

HJ: Asks about a comms plan about winter conference.

LN: Booking on Monday, and will message Sarah about an announcement for winter conference.

Action Point: HJ to begin developing the diversity plan with relevant stakeholders

AOB

BF: Asks how it'll be determined when the in-person exec meeting will be, given we are reducing them.

HJ: Will send around a poll on what they prefer. Still thinks February is the best idea.

WT: Asks about the away day and notes wanting the in-person meeting to an away day, which will be beneficial earlier than later.

TH: Working on Tuesday and Thursday, otherwise on leave for two weeks. Will be back to work on 13th January. Might need more time, due to surgery in the new year.

HJ: Congratulations to Mark Pack and Shaffaq Mohammed on being ennobled. And a belated congratulations to Caroline Pidgeon on her ennoblement.

Action Point: email vote over changing exec regs for in-person meetings

Action Point: Agree when is best to have our in-person meeting of the year

Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 12:53