

## PCEC FOUNDERS' MEETING

24/03/21

12:00-13:00

**Present:** Julian Manley, Andrew Birchall, Janet Newsham, Michael Mckeown, Lynn Brooks, Cilla Ross

**Andy** shared his discussion with Coops UK on the legal structure.

**Julian** expressed appreciation for Andy's work and explained the chart of the proposed unique governance model.

**Andy** wasn't sure what issues will ensue if they are to register as a union coop. Not sure why they can't register as a multistakeholder cooperative society, as he believes it can still work with the same plans. For the union coop we need a union support. But he will still go on with this proposal back to the Coops UK and see what ensues.

**Mick** raises a question of how will this model function in practise. But suggests we keep the structure. Who fits in which box is the question.

**Janet** is not clear what the differences are with the formal submission of the legal structures. Thinks that everybody should be union members on the GC. Not clear on how students would fit into that and about the GC electing the Union Committee.

**Cilla** and **Mick** agree that students must be involved in the democracy.

**Cilla** thinks that multistakeholder does accommodate this model, but thinks that they should also try and push the boundaries.

**Andy** was wondering whether it is a "Union Coop or nothing" decision from the group.

And argued that we can't push trade union membership on people because it is illegal to prevent people from joining the co-op on the basis of them not being members of the union.

**Mick** said that if they want the OSF support they need to be at least a worker coop.

**Andy** said that the person he dealt with in the Coops UK was suggesting to remove the union bit.

**Mick** suggested to continue the discussion with the person from Coops UK and send him the Union Co-ops Manifesto.

**Julian** wondered whether they can register themselves as a worker-owner coop and then sort out the governance later on.

Action: **Andy** to put worker co-op instead of union co-op on the model, just to get it registered.

**Janet** wondered whether making it a worker-coop would prevent students who are not workers from joining it.

**Mick** said that it won't as long as workers are making 51% of the co-op.

**Julian** said that coop members can decide to involve students in their governance.

**Cilla** agreed that it's all up to them.

**Andy** said that he will register it as a worker-owned co-op and remove the union co-op bit out of it. Once they register they will move on with what they want to have.

**Julian** suggested that if they don't want to put a "union" word in the constitution they can use a word "social council".

Meeting Adjourned.