

## WSU Education Council Minuets

02/10/2023 at 12:30 (CH G012)

Members	Staff Invited to Attend
<p><b>Chair:</b>            Seb James (<i>Vice President Education</i>)</p> <p><b>Department Reps:</b>            Elliot Atkinson (<i>English, Media &amp; Culture</i>)            Harry Mellor (<i>History, Politics &amp; Sociology</i>)            Caysee Webster (<i>Law</i>)            Vimal Vinay (<i>Nursing Associates and Apprentices</i>)            Connor Hay (<i>Computing</i>)            Anesse Ameer (<i>Management &amp; Finance</i>)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b>            Katherine Stone (<i>Paramedic Science &amp; Physicians Associates</i>)            Swathi Suresh (<i>Pre-registration nursing</i>)            Millie Alcock (<i>Biomedical Science Soc Chair</i>)</p> <p>At the time of the meeting 14 of 28 Department Reps were in place, meaning quoracy for the meeting was 4</p>	<p>Antonia Rossiter-Eaglesfield (Director of Representation and Membership Services - Chair's Aide)</p> <p>Vic Presdee (Student Voice Assistant - Minuting Secretary)</p>

	ITEM	Timings	Owner
1.	Welcome & Introductions		SJ
2.	Apologies		SJ
3.	What is Education Council?		SJ
4.	Declaration of interest		SJ
5.	Minutes of previous meeting		SJ
6.	Matters arising		SJ
<b>Reporting Items</b>			
7.	Policies Update		SJ
8.	VP Education Officer Update		SJ
<b>Discussion Items</b>			
9.	SU Spaces		SJ
<b>Any Other Business</b>			
10.	Feedback from welcome week/induction		SJ
11.	General Feedback		
12.	AOB		SJ
Date of Next Meeting:			

## Minutes

### 1.0 Welcome & Introduction

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SJ welcomed all members to the first Education Council of the year.

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## **2.0 Apologies**

Katherine Stone, Swathi Suresh and Millie Alcock sent Apologies ahead of the meeting.

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## **3.0 What is Education Council?**

SJ explained the purpose and role of education council and what to expect over the coming year.

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## **4.0 Declaration of interest**

SJ explained what a Declaration of Interest is to attendees. No Declarations of Interest were made.

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## **5.0 Minutes of previous meeting**

SJ explained to attendees that limited minutes are available for the previous Education Council due to staff turnover. Education Council reviewed the limited minutes of the previous meeting and took a vote to approve:

For - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

The limited minutes from Education Council on 25/04/2023, were approved.

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## **6.0 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.


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## **7.0 Policy Update**

SJ explained all active policy with councillors. There were no significant updates provided.

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## **8.0 VPE Update**

- Working on University policy (especially AI)
  - Attended NUS Lead and Change
  - Visted Dudley IoT- New satellite location
  - Met with DG, AJ and TJ (VC and PVCs) to discuss Academic Reps
  - Began planning Rep Conference
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Councillors requested further details about the Dudley satellite campus to which SJ explained in more detail what the plans are going forward including the nursing courses being offered, and how this differs to our existing partnership agreements.

CW asked if students on placement could report to Dudley, SJ clarified that the campus would be considered a separate entity currently, but that this could be fed back.

Lecture capture was also raised by CW to assist students who cannot attend lectures when equipment is available. SJ confirmed this could be raised within the university. VV raised that for some classes online teaching could possibly help disruptive students to focus. SJ will reach out to Judith Keen

**ACTION:** SJ to reach out to Judith Keen to feed back comments around lecture capture.

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## 9.0 **SU Spaces**

SJ asked for feedback from attendees on Students' Union spaces and student engagement within these spaces.

Feedback provided regarding The Hanger:

- CW fed back that the alcohol prices are not competitive with other places locally.
- VV shared they felt the Hanger space is good for student events but can get quite loud.
- CH fed back that to students there feels like a lack of staff for demand (quiz night particularly). CW agreed that it can sometimes feel overcrowded but recognises the difficulty in planning what will be a busy night and what won't.
- EA said they do not personally use the Hanger.

Feedback provided regarding the wider Students' Union space:

- AA said last year interaction with city appeared to be limited from the SU. They would like communication that isn't just over teams, but more in-person availability.
  - HM shared that better outdoor space both for the Hanger and in general (made a comparison to the Wheat Sheaf) would encourage students to use these spaces more.
  - EA shared that accessing the SU is more challenging between the two campuses, especially with things such as flooding limiting accessibility. Suggested an SU space on city campus.
  - CW suggested that donated board games for the Hanger for students to use may encourage use. SJ confirmed we do have a games cupboard but that we can feed back that students may now know where it is or that they can access it. CW asked if this could be moved downstairs.
  - CH mentioned a new game café has opened in the city centre and made a suggestion that the SU could lease with them or host something in this space as it appears to be popular.
  - EA suggested that Officers have 'Officer hours' so they are 'guaranteed' accessible. SJ agreed to feedback but also said he would share his office hours with students.
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- CW suggested if the Hangar could be used for an event to teach students skills.

**ACTION:** VP to ensure feedback is shared with SU staff responsible for facilities/spaces and SMT.

**ACTION:** SJ to share calendar with Department Reps and ensure his office hours are widely publicised with students.

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## **10.0 Feedback from welcome week/induction**

- CH was only in for one day during Welcome Week.
- HM hasn't heard anything, but everything seems to have gone well.
- EA confirmed they felt WW went well, although less students seem to be within the cohort. Either a drop in numbers or low attendance. Took part in lv 4 induction.
- VV managed to meet some students, and thought welcome week was good. However, students still seem lost about some things (such as using their emails).
- AA thought welcome week was good, welcome fair was fantastic despite having to be moved last minute. Good for 'old and new' students. Spoke to Advice service about char gpt. Postgrad induction went well but felt pushed quite late.
- CW shared that they had the opportunity to meet a lot of first years over welcome week and they seem happy and ready to start the year. Hasn't been contacted by anyone from university in terms of the AR System e.g. staff who support the AR System. SJ shared that AJ is sending an email to all ARCs so hopefully CW will hear from their ARC soon. If not let SJ know. CW flagged that lectures don't seem to know they are a Department Rep.
- EA shared that the website is out of date in terms of Rep details.

**ACTION:** VP to ensure feedback on WW is shared with SMT to be included in Welcome Week debrief discussions.

**ACTION:** SJ email Nicola Monohan to introduce CW.

**ACTION:** VP to update website with current Rep details including emails.

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## **11.0 General Feedback**

### PARKING

CW raised the issue of parking. They have submitted an idea via the online Ideas Forum regarding parking. SJ confirmed that themselves, AL and head of commuter network are also trying to tackle this issue. CW is going to try and talk to lectures to speak about this, SJ suggests to all council if they hear students complaining about parking direct them to the ideas form. CW

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identified the disabled parking is around the corner but the doors do not open, meaning disabled students are having to find another entrance.

**ACTION:** SJ to find who oversees buildings regarding the closed door.

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#### REP PROMOTION & ENGAGEMENT

AA has heard from Viv Bell to help promote course reps. Network events suggested to post grad tutor to help students build communication. They have an idea to bring in past students to talk about their successes as part of this promotion. CH also praised the SU saying responses and actions are improved from previous years.

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#### COMMUTING STUDENTS

VV discussed commuting has been difficult with train strikes.

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#### PLACEMENT STUDENTS

VV shared concern that students don't have chance to learn from the placement.

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#### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

VV shared that international students feel that they haven't been included in some teaching or introduced to placements and feel that they are treated like health care assistants.

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#### COST OF LIVING

VV discussed how students are struggling with cost of living, so wanting to investigate bursaries, particularly student parents who can't find care and may end up leaving. ARE suggested linking in with mature, student parents & carers network.

**ACTION:** SJ to share this feedback with AL, to feed into their CoL campaign and link VV with Mature, Student Parents & Carers Network.

**ACTION:** SJ to give VV email of Mature, Parents and Carers Network chair.

**ACTION:** SJ to put VV in contact with Sally Moyle.

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#### UNIVERSITY FOOD

CH has received complaints from students and lecturers about university food hub. SJ explains how things used to be in house, but it was not deemed economically viable. CH shared that last year's café staff were amazing, had a meeting as course rep with Chartwell's, now nothing has

changed that it was said would. Café staff are rude and don't know dietary requirements such as gluten free. AA agreed regarding concerns over offering halal food. EA agreed based on first experiences. Felt customer service isn't as student friendly as it should be and the menu is confusing and limited.

CH received a verbal complaint from a student with Aspergers. The student in question asked a staff member what was in the food due to dietary issues and got an unprofessional response from café staff who also appeared to be dismissive of their question. The student subsequently got upset/overwhelmed and ended up having to leave the venue.

**ACTION:** SJ feedback to RC, and try and get into next Chartwell meeting.

**ACTION:** SJ to raise the issue from the individual student with Aspergers (raised with CH) with TJ directly.

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#### ACADEMIC ISSUES & JOINT HONOURS

EA was made aware of academic issues over welcome week period. Resolved now but not sure how. Part of English language had a mandatory module clash for an award that required 100% attendance to enter. Three students are apparently happy with the resolution and outcome but EA is not sure what this outcome is. SJ recommended reaching out to the students affected to see if this is the case. More communication is needed between joint honours courses because of assignment bulking.

EA also raised another issue with joint honours with tight timetabling between lectures. With back to back lectures on different campuses. AA had similar issue last year.

**ACTION:** SJ to feed back to TJ regarding academic issues and joint honours timetabling concerns.

SJ asked about the communication over the summer regarding humanities moving from StJohns to Jenny Lind. HM and EA said it was not communicated. SJ asked about the humanities welcome party, and if some students were aware it was happening. EA did feel it was communicated to him via email and HM says he did not get communication. EA also knew from a family member that it was happening.

**ACTION:** SJ to meet Simon Hardy alongside AJ to discuss humanities location move and future communication.

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## **12.0 AOB**

Seb spoke to students about Elections and Officer positions.



## PATs

- SJ spoke about PAT feedback in NSS results and how students see this as one of the biggest areas for improvement at the institution. As such would appreciate feedback from Department Reps in this area to gauge engagement and satisfaction.
- AA and CW have not had any issues with PATs.
- CH confirmed that it feels computing have matched students with PATs well, based on student's needs.
- HM confirmed their students have fed back that they have met their PATs or still have the same one from the previous year.
- EA requested to change PAT and knows other students with the same PAT who have asked to change for same reason. The reason for this request is due to their meetings feeling like a form filling exercise rather than something that benefits the students or feels like a conversation. EA raised that some PATs also seem to have increasing commitments so less focused on students. PAT and another lecturer are also stepping down as heads of department.
- WV confirmed that their PAT last year was good but has now left and they have yet to meet the new PAT. Previous PAT would invite students to meet and would try and keep updating their students around placements etc. No communication has been received yet like this from new PAT.

**ACTION:** SJ to address heads of department stepping down in meeting with Simon Hardy.

## REP REWARD SCHEME & STUDENT COUNCIL

- SJ explained Rep Rewards system to all attendees.
- SJ explained election for representation on Student Council from Education Councillors.

## **Meeting Ends.**

### ACTIONS

**ACTION:** SJ to reach out to Judith Keen to feed back comments around lecture capture.

**ACTION:** VP to ensure feedback is shared with SU staff responsible for facilities/spaces and SMT.

**ACTION:** SJ to share calendar with Department Reps and ensure his office hours are widely publicised with students

**ACTION:** VP to ensure feedback on WW is shared with SMT to be included in Welcome Week debrief discussions.

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