

WSU Student Council Minutes

Monday 21/02/2023 at 17:15 (Online via MS Teams)

| | Item | Timings | Owner | Paper Attached |
|--|--|---------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | Welcome & Introductions | 17:15 | GA | |
| 2. | Apologies | 17:16 | GA | |
| 3. | Declaration of interest | 17:17 | GA | |
| 4. | Minutes of previous meeting | 17:18 | GA | In Email |
| 5. | Matters arising | 17:20 | GA | In Email |
| Approval Items | | | | |
| 6. | Officer Reports* | 17:25 | AL/ML/ GA | In Email |
| 7. | Policy Motion: Mandatory Mental Health Training | 17:26 | JB | In Email |
| 8. | Policy Motion: Module Withdrawal Procedures | 17:40 | JB | In Email |
| 9. | Policy Motion: City Campus Development Board | 17:55 | JB | In Email |
| Reporting Items | | | | |
| 10. | WSU Executive Committee Update | 18:10 | ML | Verbal Update |
| 11. | Sub Council Updates - Welfare and Inclusion Council - Education Council - Team Worc Council | 18:15 | AL GA ML | Verbal Update |
| 12. | Trustee Board Update | 18:25 | AL | Verbal Update |
| 13. | Update on live (current) policy and idea progression* | 18:30 | | In Email |
| Discussion Items | | | | |
| 14. | All Student Meeting Update | 18:31 | AL | |
| 15. | SU Elections | 18:36 | SW | |
| 16. | Student Choice Awards | 18:41 | GA | |
| 17. | WSU - Insights | 18:45 | Officers | |
| 18. | City & Riverside Campus | 19:00 | GA | |
| Any Other Business | | | | |
| 19. | AOB | 19:10 | GA | |
| Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 27/04/2023 at 17:15 | | | | |

1.0 Welcome & Introduction

GA welcomed all members to the third Student Council of the year. GA invited all members to introduce themselves and their role on student council.

2.0 Apologies

GA noted apologies, as above.

3.0 Declaration of interest

Joshua Bowman policy submissions

There were no additional declarations of interest.

4.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and then took a vote to approve:

An indicative vote was taken due to not be quorate. Email approval we be sent out to all other members for final approval.

For - 12

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

The minutes from the previous Student Council on 13th December 2022, were approved via email.

5.0 Matters arising

| Actions | Responsible | Update |
|--|--------------------|--|
| SC-December.01: SU to meet with Benji Robison outside of Student Council around lobbying University to provide additional support to our healthcare students. | Officers/SU | AL and GA met with BR and then raised the discussion points to TJ, PVC Students, who is keen to improve the experience for students, and will be looking for student feedback in the coming weeks. |
| SC-December.02: SU to find out who is responsible for vending machines across campuses, notify them that they aren't being filled regularly enough | Officers/SU | Officers raised this and were told that the vending machine provider was being changed, which is why was stock was low, this should be resolved now. |

6.0 Officer Reports *

This item was starred, Councillors were asked if they had any questions.

No questions asked.

After the Council had been updated, the officer reports were put to a vote to approve:

An indicative vote was taken due to not be quorate. Email approval we be sent out to all other members for final approval.

For - 9

Against - 0

Abstain - 3

The officers reports were approved by Student Council on 21st February 2023 via email.

7.0 Policy Motion: Mental Health Training

GA gave insight that this policy came through Education Council and has been revised and approved. Now it's being presented here at Student Council. GA invited JB to speak on behalf of this policy motion.

Josh Bowman highlights of the policy were:

- To Mandate the Students' Union to lobby the University for there to be a Mental Health training policy
 - Policy impacts include.
 - Improved awareness of signposting
 - Ensuring resources and guidance is readily available for staff to share with students
 - Ensuring that the contact time between students and support staff is as long as is needed by the students
 - Continuous advertising of the services to students across all their years at University, not relying on student's memory from their 1st week at University. Resources and access are limited when you're not a St Johns based student.

Councillors were invited to ask any questions. SW wanted to note that the SU has raised feedback that students want regular reintroduction into the University. Not all at once

- Issy Price
 - Safe mental health spaces, away from the business of the University.
- Al Linforth
 - This has already been raised with Tim Jones. Bredon will be knocked down so relocation of breastfeeding/prayer room needs a new space. TJ raised the idea of a mental health safe spaces. So hopefully this is something that can happen.

After the Council had been updated, the Mental Health policy motion was then put to a vote to approve:

An indicative vote was taken due to not be quorate. Email approval we be sent out to all other members for final approval.

For - 11

Against - 0

Abstain - 1

The policy motion 'Mental Health Training' was approved by Student Council on 31st March 2023 via email.

8.0 Policy Motion: Module Withdrawal Procedures

JB explained his personnel experience of module withdrawal. There was major upset within the Worcester Business School.

- Outline necessary steps when modules are withdrawn
 - Communication and clarity when there are possibilities of module withdrawal. To ensure that it is a clear and transparent process.
 - University to ask back up modules at the time, if and when modules are withdrawn
 - Providing students with the opportunity to do the modules most relevant to their studies.
 - The aims of this policy are not to change or stop module withdrawal, just to enable there to be more clarity and support to students when withdrawals happen.
 - Allowing students to maintain a level of control on the modules that they wish to study.

After the Council had been updated, the Module withdrawal procedures policy motion was then put to a vote to approve:

An indicative vote was taken due to not be quorate. Email approval we be sent out to all other members for final approval.

For - 10

Against - 0

Abstain - 2

The policy motion 'Module Withdrawal Procedures' was approved by Student Council on 31st March 2023 via email.

9.0 Policy Motion: City Campus Development Board

CCDB - Addressing issues facing students at city campus

- Idea to mandate the SU to express support the creation of a city campus development board
 - Aim to bring together representatives from the following areas to discuss and facilitate conversation around improving the student experience at City. Representatives to include:
 - Staff representative from each department
 - Student representative from each department
 - Student representative from the Research School
 - Relevant School Reps
 - Student Services representatives
 - Other additional representatives to be defined.
 - Discuss progression and current problems facing students at city
 - Facilities
 - Student Services
 - Car Parking
 - Mental Health Support

- There is a feeling of disconnect from the University experience
- Parking is very expensive
- Providing a platform for students to share their experience at City campus.
- Lobbying for more action at City Campus. Addressing issues in an appropriate environment
- Positive step towards making the campus better
- Lack of available Study spaces

Councillors were asked if they had any questions.

GA noted that there are continuous conversations about the offering to student at city campus, so the creation of this will help to start address issues

After the Council had been updated, the City Campus Development Board policy motion was then put to a vote to approve:

An indicative vote was taken due to not be quorate. Email approval we be sent out to all other members for final approval.

For - 10

Against - 0

Abstain - 2

The policy motion 'City Campus Development Board' was approved by Student Council on 31st March 2023 via email.

10.0 WSU Executive Committee Update

ML explained to the Council what Executive Committee is and then an overview of the most recent meetings of the Executive Committee.

The executive committee have approved new student groups such as;

- Handball
- Psychology Society
- Book Cosy Society

The Ideas Forum has been successful with it's most recent idea reaching just shy of 100 votes.

- More accessible defibrillators on campus

The executive committee is responsible for working on ongoing projects such as;

- Development of Jenny Lind/City campus
 - How we support students
 - Working with the University to provide more inclusive spaces to students.
- Women's workout Hour
 - This was an previous idea which ML has been working with the University to achieve. This idea is nearing completion.
- The officer team complete a monthly review of their officer objectives.

- Current student issues facing students both at Worcester and at a national level. Covering areas such as;
 - Cost of Living Crisis
 - Student Travel

ML asked Councillors if they had any questions.

No questions were asked.

11.0 Sub Council Updates

11.1 Education Council

GA gave an overview from the most recent Education Council (01/12/2022).

Key highlights included:

- Gemma Objectives
- Student Choice Awards
- Mitigating Circumstances
 - Challenges that face students
 - Costs of letters
 - Translation costs/time for evidence
 - JB: A line that reads "a delay in obtaining evidence' this would be beneficial to students if it was removed
 - JL: as a student who suffered bereavement,
- Dissertation Interview - Room bookings
- 3 x Policy Proposal Submissions
 - Mental Health Training - was decided to work with SU and review wording and resubmit to February Education Council
 - Student Financial Training - this policy did not pass at council due to not meeting quoracy. Vote for approval has been sent out to councillors via email but policy is still pending approval.
- WSU Insights Survey
 - We've already got a couple of awards achieved to Bronze
- Cost of Living work
 - Community Cupboard
 - Food Bank provider
 - Breakfast club engaging 167 students to date

No further questions or comments were received.

11.2 TeamWorc Council

ML gave an overview from the most recent TeamWorc Council (28/11/2022).

Key agenda items and outcomes included:

- Updates from all student groups
 - Elected new representative to sit on Student Council
 - Varsity
 - Tickets go on sale soon, so don't miss out.
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- Sports, Society, RAG & Volunteering updates
 - o RAG events and the barriers to participation
 - If you can't donate, encouraging students to volunteer their time as an alternative.

No further questions or comments were received.

11.3 Welfare & Inclusion Council (W&IC)

AL gave an overview from the most recent Welfare & Inclusion Council (02/12/2022).

Key agenda items had included:

- Welcomed a new member to the sub council.
- 2 Policy proposals were discussed by students.
 - LGBTQ+ Policy
 - Disability Network Policy
- Other updates given included;
 - Go Green Week
 - Insights Survey
 - Green Impact Students' Union
 - Aiming for Excellence in GISU for 2022/23 year
 - NUS - Liberation Conference
- Network Week
 - Promote Networks to all students
 - An opportunity to increase Memberships.
 - Promote the impact of our networks.
 - Idea of the week to understand what students want from their networks.
 - Gather evidence and feedback to support future President to make the Networks as affective as possible.

No questions asked.

12.0 Trustee Board

SW reminded the councillors of the function of the Trustee Board. SW then gave an overview of the most recent meeting. Key agenda items included:

- Finances
 - Students not spending as much in the bar in comparison to previous years, the Union looking at different ways to engage and encourage students back into the bar spaces.
 - The Union is projected to finish the financial year at a deficit at year end.
- Operation plan - SW shared the document with councillors.
 - The Union is currently reviewing the progress of the operational plan.
- Student Union Block Grant
 - The union has started to write a submission for the block grant request.
 - Advised by University that increase in block grant is very unlikely.

Next meeting will be on the 4th April 2023.

- In the process of recruiting an external trustee as one of our current ones is in the process of leaving.
- We have a student trustee who will be leaving in May, any non-final year students wouldn't be eligible. If any councillors are interested in this role please get in contact.

No additional updates.

13.0 Update on live (Current) Policy Progression*

This item was starred, Councillors were asked if they had any questions.

No questions asked.

14.0 All Student Meeting - Update

All-Student meeting took place on Valentines day, the meeting didn't hit quoracy but there was some great conversation. The meeting included conversation on Union affiliations and related costs. The achievements of the Union and elected officer teams as well as what's coming up in semester 2.

Some questions and ideas that came from students were around;

- Providing more activity opportunities for students
 - An end of year sports day, which is aimed at non-competitive teams/players.
 - Providing opportunities for students voices to be heard and to challenge the University.
 - GA noted that Tim Jones is very open to have a meeting with students, casual discussion. GA would be hopeful that some members here would be willing to attend a meeting with Tim. This meeting would be focused on:
 - One thing that is good on campus.
 - One thing that is okay on campus.
 - One thing that could be better on campus.
 - Gemma will send out an email to all councillors with an invitation to speak to him about their experience.
 - Discussion and concerns about OFS spelling, grammar and punctuality
 - How this policy will impact and affect our students
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15.0 SU Leadership Elections

SW reminded students about the upcoming Students' Union elections. Recommendations and nominations are currently open. SW encouraged all students to vote in the upcoming Leadership Elections taking place on 7th - 10th March.

GA noted that potential candidates can book an information session to find out more about the roles.

No questions asked.

16.0 Student Choice Awards

GA shared a link with all councillors. GA noted that nominations are now open, a great opportunity to recognise your staff that go above and beyond for an award.

- **Exceptional PAT**
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- **Module Excellence**
- **Outstanding Lecturer**
- **ARC of the Year**
- **Sustainability**
- **Extra mile - nonteaching**
- **Excellence in Doctoral Supervision**
- **Provost Award for Excellence in Teaching**

GA would like to encourage you all to nominate University staff. All nominees regardless of winning receive the nominations/ feedback. The nominations close on the 27th of March and the awards evening will be going ahead on the 16th of May.

17.0 WSU - Insights

Consulting with students around your views and your opinion of what it's like to be a student at Worcester.

A final plug of our insights survey encourages students to give their feedback as this is what will really shape how the SU will operate in the coming years and ensure that our future priorities are your future priorities.

The link to the Unions Insight Survey can be found here - bit.ly/tellushowyoureallyfeel

No questions were asked.

18.0 City & Riverside Campus

GA explained why this item agenda sits on student council. To ensure that students who aren't studying at St Johns are being supported.

- Food offering at Charles Hasting isn't good and very expensive (JB)
 - Would rather walk to town than eat at City campus.
 - Food is expensive at St Johns but it is actually nice food.
 - There is a need for a cheap offering to students to tackle the Cost of Living (Beans and Toast - 50p)
 - GA: University has subsidised Chartwells to make things cheaper, but they are unable to subsidise anymore.
 - GA noted some of the recent 'cheaper' options which are available at St Johns:
 - £2 beans on toast
 - £2 jacket potato with filling of the day
 - £1 filter coffee

GA/AL are going to do a walk around city campus, to see what options are available.

- Medical School (BR) - construction site
 - Benji noted that he had been given a tour around the site.
 - BR noted the space isn't very accessible to paramedic students.
 - No lecture rooms only seminars not ideal for cohorts more than 20 students
 - Following complaints about lack of food and drink provisions, it has been confirmed that there will be a new canteen/food outlet at the campus.
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- The study spaces planned aren't very student friendly due to a lack of plugs for charging.

No additional feedback was given.

19.0 AOB

GA encouraged students to fill out the 'Shape your University' NSS & CES surveys are now open to students.

- FW: Lecturers are hounding students about filling it in.
 - There has also been confusion to those on the Integrated masters course, confusion 'advertised as level 6 survey' not as a 'final year survey'.
- SJ: Education students have been given time at end of lectures to complete which has been more efficient and well received by students.
- JB: Shared frustrations about, at which point do Surveys become too invasive. Students are being asked to fill out loads of surveys including:
 - NSS
 - CES
 - SU Insights
 - Other SU surveys
 - Module evaluation
 - Surveys are time consuming, when juggling academic and personal life.

ACTION: SW/Officers to feedback to University about surveys and the impact on students.

No additional business.

Student Council was brought to a close.

ACTION.SC-Feb.01: SW/Officers to feedback to University about surveys and the impact on students.

