

# Student Council Minutes

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016, 17:15-19:15 CC-009

## Agenda

1.	Welcome and introductions
2.	Apologies
3.	Declarations of interest
4.	Minutes of previous meeting
5.	Matters arising from the minutes/action points
6.	Co-option of students to Student Council (moved to 3)
<b>Approval Items</b>	
7.	Approval of new SU clubs/societies and process for Refreshers
8.	Policy 2016-17_001: Welfare Inclusivity Officers for Clubs and Societies
9.	Policy 2016-17_002: Arts and Culture Officer
10.	Policy 2016-17_003: Autumn Elections
11.	Policy 2016-17_004: Housing Review Platform
<b>Reporting Items</b>	
12.	Update from Executive Committee
13.	Update from the Board of Trustees
14.	Officers' reports – questions/comments
<b>Any other Business</b>	
15.	Any other business

## Attendance

**Student Councillors present:** Jade Haley (JH), Hemaka Pathirana (HP), James Gunther (JG (Chair), Danny Gregory (DG), Janna-Carla Niemi (JCN), Verity Postlethwaite (VP), Carwen Davies (CD), Lauren Parry (LP)\* Tayla Elson (TE)\* Kyle Harding (KH)\*, Harry Lonsdale (HL)\*, Olga Steikunas (OS)\*.

*\*observers until co-opted*

**Also in attendance:** Sophie Williams (SW (Chief Executive), Tim Hewes-Belton (THB (Student Engagement Manager, minute-taker), Ian Mackay (IM (Candidate for Mature Students Officer), Duncan Cushenen (DC (Chair, the Voice), Alex Mulligan (AW (Observer), Georgina Smith (GS (Observer).

## Minutes

1.	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> JG welcomed everyone, particularly the candidates for co-option and observers to the meeting and explained that he would be chairing, as the position of Student Council Chair remained vacant. He invited everyone to introduce themselves.
2.	<b>Apologies</b>

	<p>Apologies were received from Matthew Sargeant (Academic Societies Rep), Euan Morrison (BUCs Sports Rep), Alexandra Wells (LGBT+ Officer), Fran Storey (Student Disability Officer) and Kirk Wood (Worcester Business School Rep). Morgan Koronis, and Helen Chidler, candidates for Women's' Officer and Institute of Education, respectively, also sent their apologies.</p>			
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Co-option of students to Student Council</b>          JH reminded councillors and candidates of the process. Each candidate present was invited to give an overview of their application statement to Student Council. SW read the candidate statements for Morgan Koronis, and Helen Chidler who were unable to attend.</p> <p>Candidates were asked to leave the room while Student Council cast their votes</p> <p><b>Vote to Co-opt the role of Institute of Health and Society Rep</b>  <b>Lauren Parry: 7</b>  <b>Re-open nominations: 0</b></p> <p><b>Vote to Co-opt the role of Institute of Education Rep</b>  <b>Helen Chidler: 7</b>  <b>Re-open nominations: 0</b></p> <p><b>Vote to Co-opt the role of Sustainability Officer</b>  <b>Kyle Harding: 7</b>  <b>Re-open nominations: 0</b></p> <p><b>Vote to Co-opt the role of RAG Officer</b>  <b>Harry Lonsdale: 7</b>  <b>Re-open nominations: 0</b></p> <p><b>Vote to Co-opt the role of Women's Officer</b>  <b>Tayla Elson: 7</b>  <b>Morgan Koronis: 0</b>  <b>Re-open nominations: 0</b></p> <p><b>Vote to Co-opt the role of Mature Students' Officer</b>  <b>Olga Steikunas: 5</b>  <b>Ian Mackay: 2</b>  <b>Re-open nominations: 0</b></p> <p>Council decided to suggest unsuccessful candidates should be asked to consider other roles.</p> <p>Candidates and observers were invited to return and JG announced the results. IM was invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting as an observer if he wished.</p>			
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b>          JCN declared that as a member of Worcester Worldwide she had an interest in the vote to approve them as a society. HP and DG declared that as proposer and seconder for Policy 2016-17_001 they had in an interest in a vote to pass the policy.</p>			
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>          These were approved as an accurate record of the meeting</p>			
<p>6.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1944 632 2016"> <p><b>Action 01:</b></p> </td> <td data-bbox="632 1944 1015 2016"> <p><b>All councillors to send ideas on how the Union could</b></p> </td> <td data-bbox="1015 1944 1394 2016"> <p>JH reported that no suggestions had been</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Action 01:</b></p>	<p><b>All councillors to send ideas on how the Union could</b></p>	<p>JH reported that no suggestions had been</p>
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	<b>increase attendance at its AGM to Tim Hewes-Belton</b>	received from Councillors although it had been discussed in Executive Committee
<b>Action 02:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>THB to send consultation document to all councillors.</b></li> <li>b. <b>All councillors to send comments and feedback to THB by 15<sup>th</sup> November.</b></li> <li>c. <b>THB to compile report.</b></li> </ul>	<p>JH informed the Council there would be further information in her update from the Executive Committee. <b>See Action 01</b></p> <p>SW clarified that the consultation could only be shared with councillors.</p>
<b>Action 03:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>HP to contact both societies and notify them of their approval.</b></li> <li>b. <b>HP to communicate the concerns of duplication to the Tabletop, D&amp;D and MTG society and request that they seek to work with the Gaming Society when appropriate.</b></li> </ul>	HP reported that this had been completed
<b>Action 04:</b>	<b>JH to source motion template and send around to Student Councillors.</b>	JH reported that this had been completed
<b>Action 05:</b>	<b>JH to work with THB to set up and publicise the application process for co-option to Student Council</b>	JH reported that this had been completed

## Approval Items

### 7. **Approval of new SU clubs/societies and process for Refreshers**

HP explained society approval process to new councillors.

#### **Desi Dancers:**

HP explained that they had been asked whether they want to be a society or club and that they have chosen a society. HP gave an overview of the aims of the society and explained that the choreographer position had been added by the committee.

CD asked for clarification as to why they are society when they are physical. HP clarified that it is a choice for each individual student group.

OSD asked if the society was focusing on one dance type whether it was inclusive to other dance styles. HP explained that the Union already has a Dance club and that Indian style dancing was not included in the existing club and that this society had cultural aims and was

offering something new.

VP expressed concern we could end up with multiple dance societies and that ideally the two groups will work together when appropriate.

Vote to approve the Desi Dancers Society:

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

**Society approved**

#### **Islamic Society**

HP explained that the Union has tried for a number of years to have an ISOC to ensure that more religious groups are catered for. HP explained that the Chair of the new society has been working for several weeks, putting in a lot of effort to recruit a committee. HP gave overview of society aims and informed council that the University Chaplaincy was already working with the students setting up the society.

HP noted that in the constitution they wanted to name the society leader the President rather than the Chair. THB clarified that the Students' Union's Byelaws stated that all societies have to have a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. **See Action 02.**

For: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

**Society approved**

#### **Worcester Worldwide**

HP explained the society was a result of work undertaken by the International Students' Officer, supported by the SU to get it set up. HP gave an overview of the society aims and objectives and explained that the society would welcome both international and home students. HP explained they have a number of planned activities including a trip to the Malvern Hills.

CD suggested the society may wish to consider the addition of a members' rep to support the different cultures involved.

CD explained that the Malvern Hills maybe somewhere students have already been on their course so that the society may need to rethink their trips. JCN explained trips would be voted on by members once the society is fully up and running.

For: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

**Society approved**

IM left the meeting.

Student council noted that they were happy to approve new society applications electronically before Refreshers so that any new societies have the benefit of the Clubs and Societies' Fair

<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Policy 2016-17_001: Welfare Inclusivity Officers for Clubs and Societies</b>          JG invited HP and DG to present the policy. HP went through the reasons why he wanted to introduce this position for all clubs and societies. HP explained that the role wanted to look at all students and work to help societies to include all students. HP also gave an overview of the new training programme the SU is planning.</p> <p>A discussion followed, during which the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students studying professional courses should be included in the remit of this role as they may experience barriers joining clubs and societies.</li> <li>• The role would hopefully help societies and clubs engage more students who do not want to attend alcohol based socials and tackle the stigma some clubs and societies face.</li> <li>• Some societies like Loco already have similar roles and this has proved successful.</li> <li>• Students in this role could take the lead on actions from current SU training on alcohol awareness.</li> <li>• The role could help include more students with social anxiety issues.</li> <li>• The role description needs to be defined.</li> </ul> <p>VP tabled an amendment that required the Union to take any proposed training for the role back to Student Council for review given the sensitive nature of the role.</p> <p><b>Vote on the amendment tabled by VP:</b>          For: 10          Against: 0          Abstentions: 2  <b>Amendment approved</b></p> <p><b>Vote on the amended policy:</b>          For: 10          Against: 0          Abstentions: 2  <b>Policy approved</b>  <b>See Action 03</b></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Policy 2016-17_002: Arts and Culture Officer</b>          JG invited HP and DG to present the policy. DC gave an overview of the policy explaining that the new position would cover non-sports students and ensure they were represented.</p> <p>A discussion followed, during which the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This role could overlap current roles e.g. the General Interest Societies Rep and that incumbent students would not like to see part of their role disappear.</li> <li>• The role could not be co-opted in until it had been available in the Elections first (clarified by SW)</li> <li>• The Union's upcoming governance review would include part-time officers</li> <li>• The role could push forward the arts and culture agenda</li> <li>• Elections already struggled for candidates and therefore should another role be added?</li> <li>• Limiting the role to Arts and Culture would exclude some societies e.g. academic and could lead to a demand for more officers to ensure every-one is included.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vote on the policy:</b>          For: 0</p>

	<p>Against: 11 Abstentions: 1 <b>Policy failed. See Action 04</b></p>
10.	<p><b>Policy 2016-17_003: Autumn Elections</b> JG invited DC invited to speak in support of the policy. DC the idea behind the policy was that the main elections would lead to a bigger turn out and focus on the PTO elections. SW clarified decision to split elections was in 2014-15 and made by Student Council with the direct aim to involve 1<sup>st</sup> Years. DC explained moving the elections would also allow for a handover from previous officer.</p> <p>A discussion followed, during which the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PTOs all have a staff member as a mentor who can provide a handover</li> <li>• Moving the elections would exclude first years but some felt that first years are unlikely to stand anyway and that this proposal would mean officers could start from the beginning of the year.</li> <li>• There are pros and cons of both timing for elections</li> <li>• Elections and their timing would be included in the governance review.</li> </ul> <p>SW, clarified that other SUs flip between and that in different contexts that some eclipsed by full time, some are enhanced by it. THB clarified that there are other options based on practice from other Unions, not just the two options discussed here</p> <p>VP suggested that any change happens after governance review. SW clarified that the policy, in its current format, couldn't be passed and then held in hiatus until after the governance review</p> <p>Following a question from DC, THB clarified that the governance review timetable was currently in preparation but that the average review took between 1 and 2 years.</p> <p><b>Vote on the policy:</b> For: 0 Against: 11 Abstentions: 1 <b>Policy failed</b> <b>Student Council noted that the elections should be included in the governance review. See Action 04</b></p>
11.	<p><b>Policy 2016-17_004: Housing Review Platform</b> JG invited DC invited to speak in support of the policy. DC gave overview explaining the implementation of a platform as outlined in the policy would lead to more choice and quality of housing for students.</p> <p>A discussion followed, during which the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some members have experienced bad private housing and feel there is a lack of care by some landlords</li> <li>• This system could be a good tool for students and lead to more choice and make landlords more open.</li> <li>• The University already has an accreditation scheme which is available on Student Pad which is promoted to students, while the Union has run the Don't Rent Yet campaign and is running the Housing Fair again this year.</li> <li>• The Union can provide support, advice and guidance on housing issues through the</li> </ul>

	<p>advice service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all students are aware of the Housing Fair and Student Pad, particularly nursing students and we must ensure these are better promoted.</li> <li>• This would not cover housemate issues.</li> <li>• The welfare of those who leave reviews on such as system would need to be considered and should be anonymous</li> <li>• The role of agencies and their relationship with landlords needs to be considered as landlords may not always be aware of issues in their property.</li> <li>• The feasibility of implementing such as system would need to be discussed before a policy mandating the Union to create a platform could be passed.</li> <li>• Such a platform could lead landlords to pressure students to leave good reviews</li> <li>• We should lobby the university to increase clarity for students and implement a platform as suggested in the policy rather than create the platform ourselves.</li> <li>• Could the university have tiered accreditation?</li> </ul> <p>SW and JH outlined that the Union had been developing a strong relationship with University accommodation over recent years and that it might be more productive to work in partnership with the University on this, rather than implementing such a platform on our own.</p> <p>JG proposed to amend the policy to mandate the Union to lobby the University to implement a system rather than doing it ourselves.</p> <p><b><i>Vote on the amendment tabled by JG:</i></b>  For: 11  Against: 0  Abstentions: 1  <b>Amendment approved</b></p> <p><b><i>Vote on the amended policy:</i></b>  For: 9  Against: 0  Abstentions: 3  <b>Policy approved with amendment</b>  <b>See Action 05</b></p>
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## Reporting Items

12.	<p><b>Update from Executive Committee</b></p> <p>JH informed the Councillors that the Executive Committee had met twice since the last Student Council and PTOs were starting to move forward with their work and developing their Officer Development Plans.</p> <p>JH stated that the upcoming AGM and academic calendars have been main focus of the Executive Committee. JH updated that the consultation document was circulated and that a report had been compiled and sent to the University. Feedback from the University included that they had noted that the Union felt more student consultation was required. Feedback also questioned the Union's view that the year would be more pressured as there would still be 2 12 week teaching blocks.</p> <p><b>See Action 01</b></p> <p>JH updated that council on plans for the AGM which would be held at 5pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 during Refreshers Week. The Union is looking at having free food and an inspirational speaker. If councillors have suggestions then they are welcome to send them to</p>
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	<p>JH. The date for the next Executive Committee has not been set due to the inclusion of new members following co-option at this meeting. JH asked if there were any questions or comments, there were none.</p>
13.	<p><b>Update from the Board of Trustees</b> JH and SW explained the role of the Trustee Board for new councillors. JH updated that there has been no meeting since last Student Council but that the next meeting is scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at which the following will be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reports from union,</li> <li>• the Union's monthly accounts,</li> <li>• the performance of the bar,</li> <li>• the appointment of the supervising trustee</li> <li>• the governance review.</li> </ul> <p>JH asked if there were any questions or comments, there were none.</p>
14.	<p><b>Officers' reports – questions/comments</b> The full time officers presented their reports and the part time officers reports were presented on the screen. It was noted that no reports had been received from the LGBT+ and Student Disability Officers.</p> <p>JG asked if there were any questions or comments, there were none.</p> <p><b>See Action 06</b></p>
<b>Any other Business</b>	
15.	<p><b>Any other business</b> DC requested that Society grant allocations be discussed. Given the late hour the Council agreed that DC should arrange a meeting with THB and HP to discuss his concerns. <b>See Action 07</b></p>

Meeting closed at 19:18

## Action Points

### Action 01:

- a) JH to send new councillors consultation document.
- b) Councillors to review the year and provide further comment to JH on their views on the more compact academic calendar.

### Action 02:

- a) HP to communicate to the Islamic Society that their President must be called a Chair and ensure that the constitution is updated.

### Action 03:

- a) HP to oversee the implementation of Policy 2016-17\_001.
- b) THB to ensure amended Byelaws are sent to the Trustee Board for approval.

### Action 04:

- a) JH to communicate to policy proposers and seconders that policies 2016-17\_002 and 2016-17\_003 failed.



**Action 05:**

- a) JH to oversee the implementation of Policy 2016-17\_004.

**Action 06:**

- a) THB to send reports on to new members
- b) THB to send Report template to new Part Time Officers.

**Action 07:**

- a) DC to arrange a meeting with HP and THB to discuss society grant allocations.