

Student Council Minutes

Monday 24th March 2017, 17:15-19:15 EEG169

Agenda

1.	Welcome and introductions
2.	Apologies
3.	Declarations of interest
4.	Minutes of previous meeting
5.	Matters arising from the minutes/action points
Approval Items	
6.	Approval of New Clubs and Societies -History -Karate and Jitsu -Law -Midwifery
7.	Process for approval of Clubs and Societies over the summer.
8.	University of Worcester Student Charter
9.	NUS National Conference Motions and Officer Candidates (review and approval of any mandate to delegates)
Reporting Items	
10.	Update from Executive Committee
11.	Update from the Board of Trustees
12.	Officers' reports – questions/comments
Information Items	
13.	Governance Review Session recruitment
14.	Continued Membership of Council until the Autumn Elections for those continuing as a student in 2017-18
Any other Business	
15.	Any other business

Attendance

Student Councillors present: Jade Haley (JH), James Gunther, Chair (JG), Hemaka Pathirana (HP), Euan Morrison (EM), Janna-Carla Niemi (JCN), Lauren Parry (LP), Verity Postlethwaite (VP), Harry Lonsdale (HL)

Also in attendance: Tim Hewes-Belton (THB (Student Engagement Manager, minute-taker), Sophie Williams (SW (Chief Executive), Sophie Glenny (SG (Vice President Student Activities Elect)

Minutes

1.	Welcome and introductions JG welcomed everyone and noted that the meeting was not quorate and therefore no decisions could be made. It was decided by those present that items for decision would be sent round to councillors after the meeting. JG congratulated EM and SG on their election as Officer Trustees for 2017-18 and invited everyone to introduce themselves Action 01: THB to send all items for approval round to councillors via email and inform them of the outcome of the votes.					
2.	Apologies Apologies were received from Fran Storey, Ian Mackey and Tayla Elson.					
3.	Declarations of interest LP declared an interest in the vote for the Midwifery Society. Council also noted that JH and JCN are attending NUS National Conference					
4.	Minutes of previous meeting These were approved as an accurate record of the meeting by those present.					
5.	Matters arising from the minutes/action points <table><tr><td>Action 01: HP to oversee the implementation of Policy 2016-17_005 and Policy 2016-17_006</td><td>Both policies have been implemented and By-laws have been updated and are in the process of being approved by the Trustee Board. RAG committee recruitment for 2017-18 has begun and we have received 4 applications so far. Action 02 HP to include Bye-law changes in his report to Trustees</td></tr><tr><td>Action 02: JH to organise a meeting with FS to plan implementation of Policy 2016-17_007</td><td>JH has arranged a meeting to discuss implementation with FS in 2 weeks Action 03 JH to report back at next meeting.</td></tr></table>		Action 01: HP to oversee the implementation of Policy 2016-17_005 and Policy 2016-17_006	Both policies have been implemented and By-laws have been updated and are in the process of being approved by the Trustee Board. RAG committee recruitment for 2017-18 has begun and we have received 4 applications so far. Action 02 HP to include Bye-law changes in his report to Trustees	Action 02: JH to organise a meeting with FS to plan implementation of Policy 2016-17_007	JH has arranged a meeting to discuss implementation with FS in 2 weeks Action 03 JH to report back at next meeting.
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Approval Items

6.	Approval of New Clubs and Societies History: HP explained that this society that has existed before and is applying to restart. It will be an academic society but also aims to cater for those with a general interest in history. HP explained that the society proposes to merge the roles of Inclusivity Rep and Vice Chair and that within the budget they have planned no expenditure. This is due to the committee wanting to find out from members what they want in terms of activities. JG asked if there were any questions, there were none. Karate and Jitsu: HP explained this is an application by two individual Sports Clubs to merge. Both clubs have struggled for members in the past and feel they would be stronger and more sustainable working together. The new club will affiliate to both National Governing Bodies. JG asked if there were any questions, there were none.
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	<p>Law:</p> <p>HP explained that law was a new course for 2016-17, the Union has been working with students to set this up, and they are now ready to submit the paperwork. The society is building on best practice from other law societies and will work to enhance student's legal skills (e.g. mooting). Hemaka feels the committee is very active and they have already had success in national inter-university mooting competitions. (<i>Mooting is the oral presentation of a legal issue or problem against an opposing counsel and before a judge. It is perhaps the closest experience that a student can have whilst at university to appearing in court.</i>)</p> <p>THB clarified that membership of a law society is very highly regarded amongst the profession so this provision is an important development for the new course.</p> <p>SW highlighted one point in their constitution that suggests they may seek to directly represent students having issues and it was agreed Hemaka would remind them that they must follow SU structures e.g. StARs</p> <p>Action 04: HP supported by THB to ensure committee understands SU processes regarding representation and that the society understands that they should not circumvent these.</p> <p>Midwifery:</p> <p>HP explained that this is another returning society that the Union has been working with students to restart.</p> <p>LP clarified that the course has 2 cohorts that are on campus at different times so the committee is made up of a mixture from both cohorts to allow it to run for both sets of students.</p> <p>HP outlined how they plan to have members and non-members prices for events with a low membership fee. LC clarified that this is in line with national nursing and midwifery societies so will be a model students are used to.</p>
7.	<p>Process for approval of Clubs and Societies over the summer.</p> <p>THB explained that Council needed to approve a process to approve new clubs and societies over the summer.</p> <p>Those present agreed to approve societies via email and that the Union would send an overview with each set of documents pointing out any issues. This process will formally be approved by an email vote.</p>
8.	<p>University of Worcester Student Charter</p> <p>JG explained that Student Charters are designed to provide "information for students when they are starting a course – and during the course – so they know what they can expect and what is expected of them." Every year the University reviews this and asks the SU to approve it also and asked councillors to note the highlighted changes within the document</p> <p>VP commented that she felt the document was focused in its language at undergraduates that it does not account for more mature students or postgraduates and that this should be flagged when reconsidered for next year in terms ensuring that it is relevant to all students with different backgrounds e.g. mature, distance, professional.</p>

	<p>VP felt that we should approve it this year but work with the University to update for next year.</p> <p>Action 05: JH to ensure these concerns are fed back to the University.</p>
9.	<p>NUS National Conference Motions and Officer Candidates (Review and approval of any mandate to delegates)</p> <p>NSS Boycott</p> <p>JG explained briefly explained the scope and number of motions put to National Conference and invited JH to draw attention to motion 212 regarding the NUS boycott of the National Student Survey. JH reminded Council that a NUS affiliation referendum had been held in 2015-16 and that the Union had not felt it was in their interest to support the boycott. SW updated Council on the current progress of the Higher Education and Research Bill through parliament with the Lords amending the bill to remove the link between the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and fees although this was expected to be rejected by the Commons. SW clarified that NUS was arguing that this amendment was a result of the boycott and their successful lobbying. JH asked for opinions on how delegates should vote,</p> <p>LP outlined how feedback hugely important and that NSS is good for students and is not in favour of boycotting the survey.</p> <p>VP agreed and that the result of any vote should be reported at the next Council. She did note that it was good to discuss this as it shows that the Council is not passive on this issue to the University Executive.</p> <p>NUS Affiliation Fees</p> <p>SW explained NUS affiliation and how it is currently calculated based on full time student numbers. SW explained that it has been debated within the Movement for a number of years as Unions from larger universities feel they have an unfair burden. A new proposal suggests basing fees on 4% of block grant. SW stated that WSU would pay similar to what we paid before with a figure of about £20,000 however, the fee would be capped at £60,000, which would result in larger Unions with block grants in the millions of pounds paying less than they do. SW advised that Council might want to revisit the benefits of NUS membership in 2017-18 as part of wider discussions and more 'political' activity of the group.</p> <p>NUS Elections</p> <p>JH gave an overview of the positions available and the candidates. JH highlighted the VP Union Development and informed Council that she felt Matt Grange is also from a small union and having spoken to him feels he understands Worcester's needs.</p> <p>JG asked for opinions. There were none</p> <p>JG asked for questions for hustings,</p> <p>VP asked Jade to look for an opportunity to highlight best practice at Worcester e.g. Inclusivity Reps.</p> <p>VP highlighted how there had been no follow up following conference last year. JH acknowledged and promised to ensure there was follow up this year. THB clarified that this year delegates were recording votes and a report would be published by delegates</p>

	post conference.		
	Action 06: NUS Delegates to report back from Conference for discussion at next meeting. JH to ensure report is sent to councillors over summer. Councillors are free to contact Jade over the conference period with any comments on other motions or with questions for hustings.		
10.	Update from Executive Committee JH informed Council that there has not been a meeting of the Executive Committee since the last Student Council due to the Easter break.		
11.	Update from the Board of Trustees JH updated that there were now 2 new student members who were now active but awaiting ratification by Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ivan Steblyuk (BA (Single Honours) Business Marketing and Business Law)Abigail Toon (BA (Single Honours) Business Accountancy and Economics) As mentioned above this will now be voted on via email SW informed Council that the SU Budget submission for 2017-18 might want to revisit the benefits of NUS membership in 2017-18 as part of wider discussions and more ‘political’ activity of the group. SW explained the increase that the Union had received in their block grant in 2016-17 and that the University had informed the Union not to expect an increase in 2017-18 due to the current climate in the Higher Education sector and based on current student recruitment numbers. However, the Union has submitted 2 versions of next year’s budget to the University: one for £530,000 that includes supplementing the staff provision for sport and student representation and a second version at £500,000. Both would be an increase from the £476,000 received this year.		
12.	Officers’ reports – questions/comments The full time officers presented their reports and the part time officers reports were presented on the screen. JG asked if there were any questions or comments,		
	Officer	Question	Response/Additional Comments
	JH	LP what is happening around sexual health campaign? VP asked for an update on Policy 2016-17_004 on the new platform for Student Housing	JH outlined that the Union will Promoting Jonnies for Johnny, our condom delivery service and that they will be lobbying the Director for Health and Wellbeing to have 1 afternoon per week at the University surgery for sexual health issues. JH has had no feedback so will chase this up with the University Action 07: JH to contact Student Accommodation for an update on the development of a new housing platform
	JG	LP congratulated JG on his work	

		on the Degree Classification Campaign and said that students in the Institute of Health and Society had found it useful.	
	HP		HP drew attention to the lack of nominations for the Union Awards and asked councillors to push this.
	JCN		
	AW		
	OS		
	HL		HL drew attention to the upcoming Race Day and asked councillors to promote. HL also noted that he still need volunteers for the bucket collection.
	FS		JH drew attention to FS academic advice flowchart leaflet as an example of a useful officer led resource for students
	KH		JH reminded councillors that this week it is KH's Food Swap Shop and asked them to promote and take part in the campaign.
	DG		
	TE		

Information Items

13.	Governance Review Session Recruitment JG invited THB to speak. THB explained that the Governance Review consultations were now in their first phase and asked for volunteers to join the next one. EM, HL and VP volunteered. VP will also look at getting a group of postgraduate students together.
14.	Continued Membership of Council until the Autumn-elections for those continuing as a student in 2017-18 THB explained that councillors who are still students in 2017-18 would remain councillors until the next Autumn Elections and that given the low numbers he would ask councillors to confirm if they will still be here in September via email.

Any other Business

15.	Any other business JG informed councillors that Institute Rep recruitment for 2017-18 is now open with 18 reps to recruit. JG asked councillors to support and publicise. JG announced that Celebration Week tickets go on sale tomorrow for the 2 events: the Union Awards and the Colours Ball, HP requested that Council be more proactive in helping to promote what the Union does. He noted that we only got 300 nominations for SCAs this year staff need the support of Councillors who represent/have access to a wider base of students
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	<p>HP reminded councillors that the submission deadline for Worc Hard Play Hard Edition 2 has now passed but that if he could request 1 councillor, 1 Part Time Officer and 1 Full Time Officer to submit an article on their experience this could be done by Friday 28/04/2017.</p> <p>HP informed Councillors that the Students' Union had taken the difficult decision to close Nightline as a Student Led Service. He explained reasons behind this and that the Union was looking at opportunities with the Samaritans for those involved.</p> <p>VP reminded Councillors of the Research Student Conference in June and said all with an interest in research were welcome to</p> <p>LP asked to make Council aware of a company that does semi-realistic post mortems that University staff are currently in talks with them and suggest we contact the University staff in the Institute of Health and Society and look to promote more widely to Biology students, for example.</p> <p>JH thanked all those councillors leaving and asked Council to wish them well. Council thanked those leaving.</p> <p>JG thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.</p>
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Meeting closed at 18:52

Action Points

Action 01: THB to send all items for approval round to councillors and inform them of the outcome of the votes.

Action 02 HP to include Bye-law changes regarding RAG and SLS are included in his report to Trustees (Policies 2016-17_005 and 2016-17_006)

Action 03 JH to report back at next meeting regarding the implementation of Policy 2016-17_007.

Action 04: HP supported by THB to ensure Law committee understands SU processes regarding representation and that the society understands that they should not circumvent these.

Action 05: JH to ensure concerns regarding language that is not only undergraduate focused within the Student Charter are fed back to the University.

Action 06: NUS Delegates to report back from Conference for discussion at next meeting. JH to ensure report is sent to councillors over summer. Councillors are free to contact Jade over the conference period with any comments on other motions or with questions for hustings.

Action 07: JH to contact Student Accommodation for an update on the development of a new housing platform (Policy 2016-17_004)