

WSU Student Council Minutes

Monday 27/04/2023 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.	Honorary Life Memberships	17:30	SW	Verbal Update
Reporting Items				
8.	WSU Executive Committee Update	17:40	ML	Verbal Update
9.	Sub Council Updates - Welfare and Inclusion Council - Education Council - Team Worc Council	17:50	AL GA ML	Verbal Update
10.	Trustee Board Update	18:00	AL	Verbal Update
11.	Update on live (current) policy and idea progression*	18:10		In Email
Discussion/Updates Items				
12.	Leadership Elections	18:12	ARE	
13.	NUS National Conference	18:20	GA/ML	
14.	Strategic Insight	18:30	SW	
15.	City & Riverside Campus	18:45	GA	
Any Other Business				
16.	AOB	19:00	GA	
Date of Next Meeting: TBC				

1.0 Welcome & Introduction

GA welcomed all members to the fourth and final Student Council of the year. GA noted that It was the last Student council for Meg and herself.

GA invited Antonia Rossiter-Eaglesfield to introduce themselves to the group.

2.0 Apologies

GA noted apologies, as above.

3.0 Declaration of interest

There were no 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 - 9

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

The minutes from the previous Student Council on 21st February 2023, were approved via email.

5.0 Matters arising

6.0 Officer Reports *

This item was starred, Councillors were asked if they had any questions. The officer reports were put to a

Actions	Responsible	Update
ACTION.SC-Feb.01: SW/Officers to feedback to University about surveys and the impact on students.	SW/Officers	GA raised the student concern to Carolyn Moir who is the lead University staff member who runs the majority of surveys at Worcester.

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 - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 3

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

7.0 Honorary Life Memberships

SW gave an overview of what Honorary Life Memberships. The Students' Union awards Honorary Life Membership to individuals who make an outstanding contribution to enhancing the Worcester student experience.

It was proposed that the outgoing officer Gemma & Meg be awarded an Honorary Life Membership for the work they have done as elected officers this past year. Three additional applications were put forward to award HLM to:

- Tereza Vidrova
- Abie Dutton
- Olivia Hardiman

After the Council had heard the reasonings for the nominations, the WSU Honorary Life Membership applications were then put to a vote to approve:

For - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 2

All WSU Honorary Life Membership applications were approved by Student Council via email.

8.0 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.

- Support to students through Ramadan
 - Lobby the University to host a Ramadan event, which suits all of our students.
- Approval of new societies
 - Approved a new Music Society.
- RAG Team
 - How we can make the team and it's roles as affective as possible to raise money for our chosen charity.

ML asked Councillors if they had any questions.

No questions were asked.

9.0 Sub Council Updates

9.1 Education Council

GA gave an overview from the most recent Education Council (25/04/2023).

Key highlights included:

- Student Choice Awards
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- A thank you given to all students who helped support and shortlist the winners for the 2023 SCAs.
- Policy Proposal Submission
 - Orange Button Scheme
- Pizza with PVC
 - Councillors discussed the student experience, what students would like to see at University.
 - The group also discussed issues and concerns relating back to their academic experience.
- Feedback Opportunities
 - Councillors discussed the impact of School reps and whether or not they were needed.
 - Understanding the challenges of Course reps
 - Councillors disclosed upset about dissertation binding services are no longer available to students on campus.
 - Students had preprinted off their dissertations and were told they could not have it done; no support was given in help of signposting to where these services could be acquired.
 - Students felt that the printing of a dissertation may not be mandatory in all courses but being able to is a part of the student experience.
 - Over 10 reps have already achieved Bronze in our Rep Rewards.

No further questions or comments were received.

9.2 TeamWorc Council

ML gave an overview from the most recent TeamWorc Council (17/04/2023).

Key agenda items and outcomes included:

- Employability workshop
 - Identifying skills that committee members have learnt during their year as a student group volunteer
- Reminded members of the importance of logging their volunteering hours
- Updates received from all student groups
- Elected the new VPSA for 2023/24
- Varsity
 - Worcester were crowned winners of Varsity 2023 over rivals Gloucestershire.

No further questions or comments were received.

9.3 Welfare & Inclusion Council (W&IC)

AL gave an overview from the most recent Welfare & Inclusion Council (25/04/2023).

Key agenda items had included:

- GA provided an update of what AI has been doing in their role of President
- Networks in attendance gave relevant updates
 - Disability Network ran a campaign on looking at what different disabilities look like at University
- Did a small review of what had been achieved in the 2022/23 year.

No questions asked.

10.0 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:

- The most recent meeting took place on the 4th April.
- Union income is down
 - National minimum wage has gone up, so there has been increase in the salaries of student staff and lower paid core colleagues in the SU.
- Block grant submission
 - Currently income is £600,000
 - The SU are writing their block grant proposal to the University, although it seems unlikely that there will be an increase.
 - 2023/24 will be a financially hard year for the Students' Union, although this is something to worry about as the Union has healthy reserves.

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.

11.0 Update on live (Current) Policy Progression*

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

No questions asked.

12.0 SU Leadership Elections

ARE gave an update on the 2023 SU leadership elections which took place in March. Overall, it was successful process.

- 7 really engaged candidates, which made the elections a fun process.
- Severe weather had a negative impact on the week, with nearly a whole day lost in voting.
- The SU wanted to ensure that there was a reflective diversity in the elections, this was a big focus for us in this years elections, not just a numbers target.
- Recommend a friend rate increased year on, with 73 recommendations made.
- 7 candidates with 2 out of 3 positions contested
- 1101 voters
- 11.9% voter turnout, which sits us in the national average for voter turnout.

ARE invited councillors to speak to the Elections team via the email, SUelections@worc.ac.uk with any feedback about how we can improve the processes.

The 2023-24 elected officer team is:

- President - Al Linforth
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- VP Education - Seb James
- VP Student Activities - Issy Price

No questions asked.

13.0 NUS - National Conference

Gemma & Meg attended National conference in Harrogate back in March.

GA noted that there was some great conversations at conference which affect students across all of our campuses across UK. Some of the conversations included:

- Treating International students as cash cows
- Removal of 20hr limitation for international students who want to work whilst studying
- Cost of Living
- Housing
- NUS accountability

GA & ML look forward to seeing some of these future campaigns to come alive and to try and support our students at Worcester where affected.

No questions asked.

14.0 Strategic Insights

As you'll be aware we did some insight surveys with students over the last couple of months to help us build and develop a new strategic plan and direction of the Union.

In total we received 900 responses. The breakdown of these responses can be seen below;

- 493 on our main survey
- 387 in our pop up survey
- 141 emoji check-ins
- 2 workshops sessions with students

Overall, the SU is happy with the level of data it received from the surveys, this data has now been assessed and 5 key themes have been identified;

- Stress, overwhelm, and poor mental health
- Financial pressures
- Perceived treatment between different groups of students
- Want the SU to hold the University to account
- Becoming the best possible Students' Union

Next steps, the officers and core staff team are assessing the feedback given by students and look at what the Unions first steps could look like to becoming a better Students' Union.

Once this has all been done, we will formulate a draft strategic plan to be worked on and approve a final copy ready for September and ready for the Union to implement for the return of students.

No questions were asked.



15.0 City & Riverside Campus

The officers have continued to work with University SMT to improve the experiences of students at City Campus and Jenny Lind.

- Officers did a walk around the facilities at Jenny Lind, accompanied by Tim Jones and some members of staff within the facilities teams.
 - An outcome of this meeting was that Tim Jones, feels that facility improvements can and will take a long time to implement. TJ wants to try and do some work over the summer as a quick fix to improve the student experience.
- Gemma & Meg attended the Pizza with PVC session where students met with Tim Jones.
 - Feedback was given about the facilities at City campus, which included study, social spaces.
 - Tim Jones agreed to meet and walk around with Joshua Bowman, identify areas which may need improvements.

Gemma opened the floor to councillors:

JB: Mental Health (services, signposting, advertising) there is still a lack of presence to students studying at City campus.

- AL: Student services, FirstPoint are looking at having a physical presence at city campus and also Riverside campus.

OH: Physical receptions at Jenny Lind have seemed to have been removed, currently the only information that can be acquired is via the reception iPad.

- GA: will ensure that Tim Jones is aware that there is less staff support available on Jenny Lind.

OH: How do we make the international students feel more included in the experience, with the current offering at Jenny Lind it could become very easy for these students to become quite isolated from the University.

- GA: As a Union we continue to develop our outreach. Through the use of our campus chats, we hope we can work to make sure all students feel supported and included in the University experience regardless of what campus they study at.


JB: The prayer room at Charles Hastings is in the deepest and darkest corner and isn't advertised very well.

- GA noted that we have challenged the University on the current prayer rooms across all campuses.
- At St Johns the current prayer room is a wellbeing, prayer and breastfeeding room. These are not ideal

No additional feedback was given.

16.0 AOB

BR: Committee members have been told that they have limited invite to the TeamWorc awards. The paramedicine society has 7 committee members and being told we can only bring 3 members has been quite awkward. Can there be consideration for next years about having a bigger space to allow more students to attend.



- ML: we have done a RSVP ticket, so any tickets not claimed will be put out on a first come first serve basis.

No additional business.

Student Council was brought to a close.