

Student Council 1

Date: 22.10.2024

Time: 17:15-19:15

Location: EE 2035

Members:	Staff Invited to Attend:
Chair: Elliot Atkinson (EA) In Attendance: Jack Lambert (JL) Ruttuja Mane (RM) Sophie Williams (SW) Jasmine Alica Clements (JAC) Lauren McCredie (LM) Caroline Furtado (CF) Lacey Freeman (LF) Ronke Akintan (RA) Alyssa Norkus (AN) Warwick Trumper (WT) Emmanuel Donkor Snr (ED) Omaima Oimdina (OO) Apologies Sent: Briagh Harker (BH) Sophie Ware (SWa)	Chairs Aid: Antonia Rossiter-Eaglesfield (ARE) Olivia Williams (OW) Minuting

	Item	Timings	Owner	Paper Attached
1.	Welcome & Introductions	00:10	EA	N/A
2.	Apologies		EA	N/A
3.	Declaration of interest		EA	N/A
4.	Minutes of previous meeting: (a) 22/02/2024 (for approval) (b) 25/04/2024 (for approval)		EA	WSU_SC_221024_001a WSU_SC_221024_001b
5.	Matters arising		EA	WSU_SC_221024_002
Update Items				
6.	Introduction from Professor Sally Moyle (Pro Vice Chancellor Health and Science) and Professor Lisa Stansbie (Pro Vice Chancellor Education, Culture and Society)	00:35	SM & LS	N/A
Approval Items				
7.	Student Council Agenda Item Schedule 2023-24*	00:02	EA	WSU_SC_221024_003
8.	AROG Code of Practice*	00:02	EA	WSU_SC_221024_004
9.	WSU Bye Laws*	00:02	EA	WSU_SC_221024_005
10.	SU Sustainability Policy*	00:02	EA	WSU_SC_221024_006a WSU_SC_221024_006b WSU_SC_221024_006c WSU_SC_221024_006d
10.	Officer Annual Objectives & Reports	00:10	Exec	WSU_SC_221024_007a WSU_SC_221024_007b
12.	Expiring Policies	00:12	Exec	WSU_SC_221024_008
-	Sub Council Policies - None to approve	N/A	N/A	N/A

13.	WSU Executive Committee Update	00:05	RM	N/A
14.	Sub Council Summaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welfare & Inclusion Council (RM) - Education Council (EA) - Student Activities Council (JL) 	00:10	Exec	N/A
15.	Academic Representation Oversight Group (AROG) Annual Report 2023-24*	00:00	EA	WSU_SC_221024_009
16.	Trustee Board Update	00:05	SW	N/A
17.	Update on live (current) policy and ideas progression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health (RM) - Email name change (RM) - All Gender/ Disabled Toilet Separation Policy (RM) - Continuing Recording Lectures (EA) - Race Equality Week Policy (RM) 	00:10	Exec	N/A
Discussion Items				
18.	Current Student Issues	00:15	All	N/A
Any Other Business				
19.	AOB	00:00	All	N/A
Date of Next Meeting: 12 th December 2024 at 16:15				

Minutes

1.0 Welcome and Introductions
EA Welcomed everyone to the first student council of the year. Introductions by all.
2.0 Apologies
Apologies sent from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briagh Harker (BH)

- Sophie Ware (SWa)

3.0 Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest.

4.0 Minutes of Previous meeting

Minutes from previous meeting
22/02/24: For (13) Against (0) Abstain (0)
25/04/2024: For (13) Against (0) Abstain (0)

5.0 Matters Arising

Carried Over	Owner	Update
Action: AL to Cristina Muradore for some communication about references for international students.	RM (AL)	Update: AL has not received a response to date. COMPLETE
Action: SU officers to follow up about the Basic Life Support policy and update the at the next student council	JL (IP)	COMPLETE
Actions from April 2024 Meeting	Owner	Update
Action: ML to send around all approval items round via email.	ML/ARE	Update: Items circulated via email; voting did not reach quoracy. Outstanding items added to October 2024 agenda for approval. COMPLETE
Action: AL to speak to the University to see if CWM can attend EDI forum.	AL	Update: Actioned COMPLETE

6.0 Introduction to Sally Moyle and Lisa Stansbie

Introductions from Sally Moyle Pro (Vice Chancellor Health & Science) and Lisa Stansbie (Pro Vice Chancellor Education, Culture & Society)

WT - Is there a plan for Student Retention?

SM - Yes, the steering group have got a plan with 4 sub sections within. This has small projects within each.

ACTION OCT 01: EA to Obtain the student retention plan from SM and send it to WT.

LS- Access and Participation Plan - Looks at gaps in attainment and intersectionality - and how the University are supporting different types of students.

Micro learning group - Small bitesize courses were given to students before they arrived. This is going to be trialled again to gain more engagement at the University.

LS Provided an explanation of what an APP (Access and Participation plan) is and the route for approval.

7.0 Student Council Agenda Item Schedule 2023-2024

No members of student council voted for unstaring this item.
 For (13) Against (0) Abstain (0)

8.0 AROG Code of Practice

No members of student council voted for unstaring this item.
 For (13) Against (0) Abstain (0)

9.0 WSU Bye Laws

No members of student council voted for unstaring this item.
 For (13) Against (0) Abstain (0)

10.0 SU Sustainability Policy

No members of student council voted for unstaring this item.
 For (13) Against (0) Abstain (0)

11.0 Officer Annual Objectives and Reports

JL

- University 'What's On' Page - Had discussions with the University staff on integrating a What's on page on my day.
- Varsity - looking at creating different events and creating a sense of belonging.
- Mental Health Campaign - JL acting as Movember Rep and is working with different student groups for fundraising.

RM

- Sustainability - Begun work on the bring your own mug scheme to get discount on drinks.
- Scrap paper points.
- Launching Kitchen Korner.
- Housing Campaign will be live soon and housing guides will be released in November.
- Breakfast with the SU initiative has been delivered across multiple campuses.
- Community Cupboard - Our partnership with Hey Girls who currently provide our free period products is under review and there maybe an impact on supply. RM will update student council when further discussions have taken place.

EA

- Building a community of reps - Held the first City Social Event in September, which was well received.
- Timetabling - Increase the transparency and awareness on the decision-making processes around lectures and seminars. Inviting a member of timetabling to Education Council in February. Trying to get the University to open a timetabling forum for all students to attend.
- Neurodiversity - In discussion with PVC on the implementation of Reasonable adjustment plans.
- Celebrating Neurodiversity - Looking to celebrate Neurodiversity within various initiatives including the voice conference and through rep and network training.
- Student Voice Conference is going to be held on Friday 17th January 2025. Currently planning the event and booking externals for sessions.
- Research into mental health services (joint objective with all officers)

Objectives and Report Approval

For (13) Against (0) Abstain (0)

12.0 Expiring Policies

EA - Once a policy is passed by Student Council it is binding for three academic years.

No one had any questions regarding policies expiring.

For (13) Against (0) Abstain (0)

13 WSU Executive Committee Update

RM Provided an update on the below topics that have recently been discussed at Executive Committee.

- Dudley Campus - How the SU can have a presence at Dudley Campus.
- Careers Department within Student Services are willing to have drop ins in the Hangar.
- Toilet signage policy
- Breakfast with the SU
- City Campus Hub
- Hey Girls Period Products

14.0 Sub Council Summaries

EA - Education Council was held on the 2nd of October.

Discussions had:

- Jenny Lind Access
- Recording Lectures
- Reasonable Adjustment Plans

- Inconsistency in grading and marking in group presentations
- Student Council Elections – Student Councillor positions were all filled.
- Essay Mills approaching students in person

RM – Welfare and Inclusion Council

Discussions had:

- Explained Welfare and Inclusion
- Intersectionality
- EDI
- Elections
- Dog Spending Pens – RM currently working on these being added to the maps.

JL – Student Activities Council was held on the 10th of October

Discussions had:

- Welcome Festival
- Movember
- General Student Activities Update

15.0 Academic Representation Oversight Group

No members of student council voted for this item to be unstarred

16.0 Trustee Board Update

SW explained what the Trustee Board is and who it consists of and that meetings are held 5 times a year. Discussions had at October Trustee Board meeting:

- The Union's finances and end of year accounts for the last academic year (23/24). SW explained that the block grant from the University has remained static for 4 years which is causing pressures, and the staff team has reduced over time. The Union is predicting a deficit in 24/25 academic year.
- Approved the operational plan for 2025
- Approved the Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer who will oversee the leadership elections in March.
- Approved the updated Code of Conduct for members and officers, as well as updates to the Bye Laws.
- Approved the Union and University's joint Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech (which includes our Guest Speaker process).

Next Trustee Board is at the end of November.

A question was asked about money issues within the Student Union and what can be done to help.

SW talked about the various challenges facing the Union, including the cost-of-living crisis, rising costs and wages, and students' decreasing ability to spend money in the Hangar. The Union is also required to maintain reserves in the bank of the equivalent of 3 month's operating costs, so it needs to maintain those levels too.

A question was asked how students can help support the student unions. SW said that students attending the Hangar and hosting events is the main way students can support the Union's income and bottom line.

It was asked if students from Gloucester University could come here for events and to spend money in the Hangar. SW said this would be great but felt it unlikely as Glos SU struggle to engage their students in Varsity etc.

Other members present said that students at the City Campus don't think they can attend Varsity if they don't do sports, and that the SU needs to promote things more to the City Campus. JL said the SU were acutely aware of this and had implemented the City SU Hub this year for this reason. He said the Union welcomed any feedback on how they can better promote events etc as social media doesn't always work and we are limited with space at the campus to put up information, which can make it hard to keep students up to date.

It was asked if there was potential to stream student union events online such as Elections. ARE confirmed this will be looked at for the Elections period such as results night.

A member asked what the Hangar offers for non-alcoholic drinks, which JL answered. Members felt smoothies and organic drinks on offer would be beneficial. SW mentioned that smoothies were offered previously but weren't popular so were stopped.

SW also talked around the fact that SU are tenants of the University building, and the Hangar is quite an awkward space to manage and make enticing. There has been no significant investment in the space since 2018, which we know is much needed, and the Union does not have the funds itself to improve the space so it can be a difficult and frustrating situation.

17.0 Update on live policy and ideas progression

EA - Continuing Recording Lectures - Will be raising this with LS & SM 23/10.

RM - Mental Health - University has signed up to the mental health charter. Still pushing the University to have a mental health policy.

RM - Email name change policy - RM has chased Chris Garrett from IT regarding this.

RM - All Gender/Disabled Toilets - Renaming the toilets as accessible toilets rather than all gender/disabled. Will be taken to campus development group.

RM - Race Equality Week Policy - REN are hosting events for race equality week. The policy states that the University should recognise Race equality week.

18.0 Current Student Issues

AJ - Asked for clarification on technical issues experience with the My Day platform.

SW - Shared with student council the staff communication received from IT, which clarified the issues.

ACTION OCT 02: EA to raise communication with students when technical issues arise such as those experienced recently with My Day with LS and SM.

19.0 AOB

Student Council had the following discussion:

International students have expressed concerns about feeling isolated and disconnected from the broader campus community. A reduction in the number of staff dedicated to accommodation has made engagement efforts more challenging. Additionally, international students often find it difficult to integrate and socialise within the wider student body.

It may be worth considering whether course representatives could play a role in promoting events and communicating opportunities within the Students' Union to help bridge this gap.

Another point to address is the low turnout at The Hangar. Understanding the barriers that prevent students, particularly international students, from attending could be key. Creating a more welcoming environment and actively encouraging participation might help them feel more included and valued.

ACTION OCT 03: Inform that the issue of the coffee machine at Jenny Lind has been raised again with SM and LS.

ACTIONS:

ACTION OCT 01: EA to Obtain the student retention plan from SM and send it to WT.

ACTION OCT 02: EA to raise communication with students when technical issues arise such as those experienced recently with My Day with LS and SM.

ACTION OCT 03: Inform that the issue of the coffee machine at Jenny Lind has been raised again with SM and LS.