

WSU Student Council Minutes

Thursday 22nd February at 17:15-19:15 - Location: EGA G011

Members in attendance	Staff in attendance
Al Linforth (SU President and Chair) - AL Issy Price (SU Vice President Student Activities) - IP Katherine Stone (College of Health & Science) - KS Elliot Atkinson (School of Humanities) - EA Emily Hatfield (Commuter Network Chair) - EH Emmalee Swift (Women's Network Chair) -ES Benji Robison (Academic Societies Rep) - BR Megan Thomas (Charity & Volunteering Societies Rep) Luke Marshall-Watkin (General Interest Societies Rep) Karyna Bludova (International Student Network Chair) Casey Webster-Miles (Observer)	Antonia Rossiter-Eaglesfield (<i>Director of Representation and Membership Services - Chair's Aide</i>) - ARE Sophie Williams (<i>Chief Executive</i>) - SW Megan Lee (<i>Student Voice Assistant - Minuting Secretary</i>) - ML

Agenda

	Item	Timings	Owner	Paper Attached
1	Welcome & Introductions	17:30	AL	-
2	Apologies		AL	-
3	Declaration of interest		AL	-
4	Minutes of previous meeting		AL	-
5	Matters arising		AL	-
Approval Items				
7	Officer Reports*	17:40	AL/IP	In Email
8	Sub Council Policies	17:45	AL/IP	In Email
Reporting Items				
9	WSU Executive Committee Update	18:00	AL	Verbal Update

10	Sub Council Summaries - Welfare and Inclusion Council - Education Council - Student Activities Council	18:15	AL/IP	Verbal Update
11	Update on live (current) policy and ideas progression*	18:20	AL	Verbal Update
12	All Student Meeting minutes*	18:25	AL	Verbal Update
Discussion Items				
13	Student Handbook 24/25 Feedback Session	18:30	IP/AL	See email for more detail
14	SU Elections	18:50	AL	
15	Student Choice Awards	19:00	AL	
Any Other Business				
16	AOB	19:15	AL	
Next meeting: Thursday 25 th April 2024 at 5:15-7:15 (Location: EE 2012)				

1. Welcome & Introductions

AL welcomed all members to the third Student Council of the year. Meeting was confirmed not to be quorate.

2. Apologies

Apologies sent prior to the meeting from Kate Phillips (School of Arts)

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

Due to the meeting not meeting quoracy the minutes of the previous meeting could not be approved.

5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Approval Items

6. Officer Reports *

Officer reports received no questions.

Officer Reports could not be approved as the meeting was not quorate.

7. Sub Council Policies

AL explained that there were two policies from Welfare and Inclusion Council. They were not approved due to low numbers at council, but AL outlined the two policies and answered questions relating to the policies.

Inclusive period Policy:

This policy is asking the SU to ensure that period products are always stocked up on accessible toilets too.

There was a question from ES about how this policy progresses when students in committee roles will be leaving soon. AL explained that conversations are taking place in Executive Committee including the sustainability of the initiative. AL also explained that it takes a big portion of IP's time to distribute to multiple toilets across campuses and we are running low on stock due to financial difficulties facing the charity we get them from. A councillor asked whether facilities could do this to which AL explained that they cannot. There were further questions about whether the university could do this, but AL explained the campaign comes with financial resource which cannot be committed to by the institution currently. AL explained how we as a union are having to ensure core business is our priority and this campaign is not core business but we will continue to support this policy where we can. SW explained that things do not have to be passed policies for us to keep working on them and to have them on our agenda.

International Students Policy:

This policy was designed to support international students whose first language is not English by asking the SU to lobby the to run a language club to help with ideas such as slang and idioms. AL reassured the students that this is something the SU are happy to help this progress without the policy being formally passed by a vote and will support the students directly with this idea.

8. WSU Executive Committee Update

AL provided an update on the recent Executive Committee. AL highlighted the key areas discussed in the recent Exec meeting included:

- Discussing the sustainability of the SU providing period products.
- Discussing whether the ideas forum is effective or whether we could enhance it.

- Progress of Active Policies.
- An update around officer objectives.
- Discussion of current student issues.
- The new Period Dignity Campaign and an upcoming Community Cupboard campaign were discussed to work out logistics and the sustainability of these initiatives.

CWM stated that he believed he would be told by Exec if his society application had been denied. SW explained that it hasn't been declined and AL informed CWM that he would hear soon about his application and that Exec had only met that day.

9. Sub Council Updates

Student Activities Council

IP provided the below overview from the most recent Student Activities Council (05/02/2024):

There were two new activities council reps elected: Megan Thomas (Charity and Volunteering Rep) and Luke Marshall-Watkin (General Interest Rep). The agenda also included an A.I. workshop, discussed the TeamWorc Awards recognition, and asked the students which activities should be recognised as part of the awards and highlighted TeamWorc Points updates and Club and Society of the month.

Education Council

AL provided the below overview from the most recent Education Council (08/02/2024):

Agenda items included an A.I. workshop, an update from AL about VPE matters, an update about the student choice awards and information provided about TeamWorc awards and how they can be more inclusive of Networks and reps and a space for general feedback and queries. AL informed the group that one of the Academic and Welfare advisors attended the meeting which was helpful as students left with the signposting they needed.

Welfare and Inclusion Council

AL provided the below overview from the most recent Welfare and Inclusion Council (07/02/2024):

Agenda items included an A.I. workshop, going through submitted policies, an update from AL as well as Network and Society updates. There was also a sustainability update and some information provided about TeamWorc awards and how they can be more inclusive of Networks and reps and finally information provided about elections and NUS liberation conference.

10. Update on live (current) policy and ideas progression.

Due to time constraints this item was passed over in favour of an email update.

11. All Student meeting Minutes

AL informed councillors this item will be moved to the next student council meeting.

12 .SU Elections

AL ran through the timeline for Elections 2024 and highlighted key events and dates. AL encourage councillors to come along to election night and to promote elections to anyone they know.

CWM asked about the question time event and whether there was anything similar that could be done for the students at other campuses. AL informed councillors that the event would be live streamed and that candidates have been encouraged to campaign and engage multiple candidates. CWM asked for some posters to share about the event. There was more discussion asking whether there was something more official that could be done at city campus. SW explained that in the past when there are events like this for elections at other campuses the engagement is poor, and it was a lot to put on the candidates as well as it being repetitive. There was a question about whether question time could be livestreamed to city campus TV's which ARE is to investigate.

There was a wider discussion about other campuses as students were saying that they felt there is limited to no presence down at city from the SU and societies based at other campus are struggling with engagement. AL reassured student councillors that these campuses are not being forgotten and they are always on the SU agendas with the university. EA asked about the change of times for Question time which ARE explained it was due to the shorted voting period. LMW asked how it works if you are on a campaign team and AL informed that ARE would answer any questions he had.

AL announced to councillors that the meeting was now quorate.

The Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting on 24/10/23 and all present approved.

13. Student Choice Awards



AL gave an overview about the Student Choice Awards.

No questions asked.

16. AOB

Chartwells

AL asked councillors to share their thoughts around the university food provider.

ES raised the issue of the cost, for example £5 for a poor-quality salad, the lack of healthier options and the food quality being 'disgusting'. They also expressed frustration with the new Caulibox scheme and the price of them to borrow and the reduced portion size.

CWM stated that there is a Chartwells owned kitchen at Jenny Lind that isn't being used and asked why it can't be used, even if it was used as a washroom for prayer. There were comments about how badly stocked and maintained the vending machine at Jenny Lind is.

EH stated that Chartwells is discussed at every meeting, and it appears nothing changes. She stated that the price is too high and stated that as Tim Jones says it is subsidised it must be extremely expensive before subsidy. She followed with asking we move on from the contract. AL informed councillors that we have a year and a half left of the contract. AL informed everyone that Chartwells were looking to do student forums and they would share the information with councillors.

BR stated that many students leave in May, but some students do not finish until July and expressed concerns about how the university is respected when international children camps take place onsite. SW reassured students that there is a new member of staff in facilities who is overseeing commercial contracts and they have been informed of issues from previous years.

ES asked a question as to why they ask if you are staff or student in the canteen and informed us that students think staff get a discount.

Action: AL to find out why they ask in the canteen if you are staff or student.

Further feedback included:

- Could the University do Unidays.
 - No advertisement seen of the saver menu.
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- Charles Hastings Café has poor service and its unclear what the food is.
- Jenny Lind just wants a coffee machine or at least a kettle would be better than nothing.
- ES raised that they pay a lot of money to attend this university and for the facilities which aren't good. People want to bring food in because it is so expensive, but students don't want to use the communal fridge.

Further AOB

- Ronke asked about the Accommodation Policy and AI stated that they have spoken to the International team and if you need a reference they are who you go to.

Action: AL to Cristina Muradore for some communication about references for international students.

- Students having issues with booking rooms at the Hive and were told they are not allowed. AL has spoken to Kate Courage about this, and she has said she is looking into it. AL informed ES it would help if the student who has had this issue shared the email correspondence.

Action: AL to discuss further with Kate Courage and confirm how students can book rooms in the library.

- There was a concern expressed about students when they graduate and whether they would be dead named and how their email is still their dead name. AL informed students that they can change their email name but if they are struggling, they are welcome to come into the SU and we can help. AL also assured students they can chose their name for Graduation. LWM said that on the SU website students' names are often their old names and AL explained that unfortunately there is no way of changing names as the data we used comes from the university.
- CWM asked if the Rep Lanyards had come, and AL informed him that we didn't receive the money from the university so it will not happen this academic year.
- Basic life support Policy - AL said we are looking into this, and we will provide an update at the next student council.

Action: SU Officers to follow up about the Basic Life Support policy and update at the next student council.

BR told all councillors about the upcoming CPR-athon.

Student Council ended 19:30

Actions:

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