

WSU Student Council Minutes

Tuesday 24/10/2023 at 16:15 (EGA 1008)

Members	Staff Invited to Attend
<p>In Attendance: Seb James (<i>Vice President Education - Chair</i>) Al Linforth (<i>President</i>)</p> <p>Andrew Weber (<i>General Interest Societies Rep</i>)</p> <p>Mattie Osborne (<i>LGBTQ+ Student Network Chair</i>) Emmalee Swift (<i>Women's Network Chair</i>)</p> <p>Connor Hay (<i>Collage of Education, Culture & Society</i>) Kathrine Stone (<i>Collage of Health & Science</i>)</p> <p>Apologies: Issy Price (<i>Vice President Student Activities</i>)</p> <p>Benji Robison (<i>Academic Societies Rep</i>) Natalia Taneska (<i>Adventure, High Risk & Social Sports Clubs Rep</i>) Daisy Dymond (<i>Artistic & Martial Arts Sports Clubs Rep</i>) Ronke Akintan (<i>Faith & Cultural Societies Rep// Race Equality Network Chair</i>)</p> <p>Laura Underwood (<i>Mature, Parents and Carers Network Chair</i>) Emily Hatfield (<i>Commuter Student Network Chair</i>)</p> <p>Lucy Harris (<i>RAG Team Leader</i>)</p> <p>Observing Non Members: Caysee Webster Anesse Ameer</p>	<p>Antonia Rossiter-Eaglesfield (<i>Director of Representation and Membership Services - Chair's Aide</i>)</p> <p>Sophie Williams (<i>Chief Executive</i>)</p> <p>Vic Presdee (<i>Student Voice Assistant - Minuting Secretary</i>)</p>

AGENDA:

	Item	Timings	Owner	Paper Attached
1.	Welcome & Introductions	16:30	SJ	-
2.	Apologies		SJ	-
3.	Declaration of interest		SJ	-
4.	Minutes of previous meeting		SJ	-
5.	Matters arising		SJ	-
Approval Items				
6.	Student Council Agenda Item Schedule 2023-24	16:35	SJ	In Email
7.	Officer's Annual Objectives	16:55	AL/IP/SJ	In Email
8.	Officer Reports		AL/IP/SJ	In Email
9.	Expiring Policies	17:10	SJ	Verbal Update
10.	Sub Council Policies	17:40	AL/IP/SJ	In Email
Reporting Items				
11.	WSU Executive Committee Update	17:45	AL	Verbal Update
12.	Sub Council Summaries - Welfare and Inclusion Council - Education Council - Team Worc Council	17:55	AL/IP/SJ	Verbal Update
13.	Trustee Board Update/SU Strategic Framework 2023-28	18:00	AL	Verbal Update
14.	*Academic Representation Oversight Group (AROG) Annual Report 2022-23	-	SJ	In Email
15.	*Update on live (current) policy and ideas progression	-	AL	Verbal Update
Discussion Items				
16.	Current Student Issues	-	AL	-
Any Other Business				
19.	AOB	18:15	SJ	
Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 5 th December at 17:15				

Welcome & Introduction

SJ welcomed all members to the first student council of the year.

Apologies

Issy Price, Benji Robison, Lucy Harris, Natalia Taneska, Daisy Dymond, Laura Underwood and Emily Hatfield send apologies

Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of previous meeting

The Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and then took a vote to approve:

For - 13

Actions	Responsible	Update
ACTION.SW/Officers to feedback to University about surveys and the impact on students.	SW/Officers	This feedback has been passed on to Carolyn Moir who is the lead University staff member who runs the majority of surveys at Worcester.

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

The minutes from the previous Student Council on 4th April 2023, were approved

Matters arising

Student Council Agenda Item Schedule 2023-24



For - 13

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

The Student Council Agenda Item Schedule was approved by Student Council

Officer's Annual Objectives

For - 9

Against - 0

Abstain - 1

The Officers Annual Objectives were approved by Student Council

Officer Reports *

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

For - 9

Against - 0

Abstain - 1

The officers reports were approved by Student Council

Expiring Policies

ARE explained policy lifespans and the expiring policies to Council.

Gender Neutral Toilets

- AL spoke about the policy. Original policy was vague, however from this policy there is now in place a university policy that all new buildings will have separate gender neutral and disabled toilets. There is also a new W&I council policy up for approval this meeting with more detail to 'replace' this policy and allow more work to be done.

CH asked about old builds. AL explained how this is covered in the new policy being presented later in the meeting.

Expire- 10

Renew - 2

Abstain - 1

Policy to expire for 2023/24.



Gender Neutral Pronouns

- AL spoke about the policy. It was submitted during the pandemic so mainly focused on TEAMS and online spaces. SU and University have been doing work in this area. University now appears to be more open to the use of pronouns, pronoun badges have been given out to reps. Policy has naturally come to its end, work will be continued.

CH- what's the plan to continue?

AL-Continuing to promote the use of pronouns, speaking to staff, raising awareness.

MO- A lot of the medical/health schools still not involving themselves, and a lot of students getting dead named/misgendered. Feels that more needs to be done, but perhaps more targeted.

Expire- 9

Renew - 2

Abstain - 2

ACTION: AL to share policy with LGBT+ network

Policy to expire for 2023/24.

Menu Diversity

- AL spoke about the policy. Not much detail was provided in the original policy to form clear tasks. The general feedback regarding diversity and inclusion has been passed on to Chartwell's through formal meetings. We're aware there are ongoing issues around food pricing in the canteen. The SU have finished the policy in terms of what they can do/influence. Continuing discussions within EDI forum and with Chartwells. University is committing to work on this.

CH- Is it worth bringing in a new, more detailed policy? Too many empty promises from Chartwells.

AL-What we can do as an SU we are unfortunately already doing, and we will continue to lobby even when the policy expires.

SJ told council to message Tim Jones as he has said he wants to hear from students about this. SW suggested including Menu Diversity as a standing item on future Student Council/sub councils.

ACTION: Add 'Menu Diversity' to standing items on Sub Council agendas

Expire- 10

Renew - 3

Abstain - 0

Policy to expire for 2023/24.

Multifaith Rooms

- AL spoke about the policy. University have actioned this and have multi faith spaces on multiple campuses. Student consultation work ongoing. University is really listening and wanting student voice on this issue.

CWM- Jenny Lind doesn't have a space.

AL-Jenny Lind comes under city campus, so under policy it is done, but we have been lobbying university to create a specific space during renovations of JL.

Expire- 10

Renew - 1

Abstain - 2

Policy to expire for 2023/24.

Sexual Violence, NDAs & Student Sex Workers

- AL spoke about the policy. In short, University have said no. However, they have created a reporting tool for sexual harassment and misconduct, can be submitted anonymously or not. New reporting tool is releasing soon for any misconduct/concerns, not just sexual violence.

KS- Are students told about the reporting tool/ Is there awareness around the tool?

AL- Its tricky as the subject can be quite triggering, and the tool can be hard to find. We're in continued discussions with the university.

MO- Tool was covered in inductions, but very very briefly. Nothing on MyDay. MO can't see any widget/button checking in meeting, so it may have moved.

CWM- Tool is now under support services. No longer has its own panel.



Council was not happy about the tool no longer having a dedicated button/widget

ACTION: SJ to contact Chris Garrot and Student Services Director to ask about the reporting tool visibility.

ES- What was the relevance of Sex Workers to the policy?

SJ- It was related to NDAs and that students now do not have to declare if they partake in sex work.

Expire- 10

Renew - 3

Abstain - 0

Policy to expire for 2023/24.

Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showman and Boater Pledge

- AL spoke about the policy. University have signed the pledge.

CH- what was the context to how it came about?

AL- There was a pledge going around universities to raise awareness of these communities/their needs and the university didn't sign it. This policy was to lobby the university to sign the pledge.

Expire- 10

Renew - 2

Abstain - 1

Policy to expire for 2023/24.

Night bus Revival

- AL spoke about the policy. Financially was not sustainable to run. Night bus is now paid for by the university during welcome week, and we now have good links now with first buses. There are continuing discussions in the transport group. Campus route is part of £2 cap. Night bus as it was is considered financially impossible unfortunately.

CH- Why wasn't it sustainable?

AL- As the year goes on less student use the bus.



CH- Would charging standard price during late hours work?

SJ- In last meeting there is conversation about bringing it back at standard fare.

KS- Was the bus every night?

SW- It started off Mon, Wed, Fri.

KS- Could it be run only Wednesday when demand is highest from students.

SW- The bus was just completely financially unviable to run, at the time bus service were also thinking of removing 31 route as well. The university can't afford to pay first bus to put the bus on with a limited budget. We have run a 'how are you getting home' campaign with local taxis and TRAMPS, and the university have invested into an amazing CCTV system in Worcester.

Expire- 10

Renew - 3

Abstain - 0

Policy to expire for 2023/24.

Fit to Study

- SJ spoke about the policy. Fitness to study is a national policy approach. The premise is that if you enter an exam room you are confirming you are fit to take the exam. The SU have discussed this with the university who are reluctant to implement the policy as mitigating circumstances exists and covers this area. There is a 7-day window after exam to submit mitigating circumstances, if approved there will be possibility of resit.

Expire- 10

Renew - 2

Abstain - 1

Policy to expire for 2023/24.

Sub Council Policies

All Gender/ Disabled Toilet Separation Policy:



ES- Gender-neutral toilets are not flagged on map, could this be included in the policy?

AL- Can vote to approve with that amendment.

Indicative vote-

For - 3

For with amendment - 10

Against - 0

Abstain - 0


Policy passed with amendment.

Incorrect Terminology Policy:

MO- is incorrect terminology referring to using outdated terminology

Interchangeably, or using it when discussing the changes in terminology as well (eg, health course lectures)?

AL- We would be working with disability service/networks around how this resource would be used so educational proposes would probable not come under the policy.



ES- terminology is frequently updated, how would SU/Uni keep up to date?

AL - 'common sense'/regularly reviewing.

MO-policy should be fleshed out

Indicative vote-

For - 9

Against - 0

Abstain - 4

Policy passed.

Action for Accessibility:

No comments

Indicative vote-

For - 13

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

Policy passed.



Email Name Change:

CH- From IT perspective the policy should be possible if everything is implemented properly

AW- are students being made aware they can update their name?

AL- Student services should be, but we will also be making noise about it when its implemented.

Indicative vote-

For - 12

Against - 1


Abstain - 0

Policy passed.

TeamWorc Council Name Change:

ES- Name change is a good idea, thought TeamWorc was volunteering when first a student.

CH-only discovered TeamWorc this year, changing logo is a good idea.



KS- Agree with the changes, can we include an amendment that TeamWorc council come back with ideas for the new name.

SJ- We can vote with that Amendment

AA how long has it been TeamWorc.

AL- About 3 years.

Indicative vote-

For - 2

For (but to send back to TeamWorc Council for name suggestions) - 9

Against - 0

Abstain - 1

Policy passed and to be sent to TeamWorc Council for name suggestions.

Increase to Academic Representation membership on Student Council:

No comments.

Indicative vote-

For - 12

Against - 0



Abstain - 0

Policy passed.

WSU Executive Committee Update

No questions were asked.

Sub Council Updates


1.1 Education Council

- Overview of Ed council
- Satellite site in Dudley
- SU spaces/hanger
- SU outreach
- Welcome Week/ Induction Feedback
- Catering Feedback
- Parking Feedback
- Rep promotion/course rep training
- PATs
- Rep Rewards

1.2 TeamWorc Council

- Feedback around SU Spaces
- Celebration week/TeamWorcAwards/Summer Ball
- Welcome week feedback
- TeamWorc points/rewards
- Elected Reps for SC

1.3 Welfare & Inclusion Council (W&IC)

- Officer Objectives
 - Network Updates
 - EDI Annual report
- 

- Passed 2 policies
- Hate Crime Officer Team

No questions asked.

Trustee Board/ SU Strategic Framework 2023-28

AL explained what the trustee board is and how they fit within the SU decision-making structure.

August Trustee Board meeting - reviewed the new strategic framework.

October Trustee Board meeting - reviewed KPI/operational plan/ end of year audit/RO and DRO for elections/New Student trustees.

SW explained the SUs upcoming 2023-28 strategic framework to council.

***Academic Representation Oversight Group (AROG) Annual Report 2022-23**

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

***Update on live (current) policy and ideas progression**

No questions asked.

Current Student Issues

Chartwells/Food

CH fed back to students about PVC discussions and confirmed students are not happy with the responses received to date. Students and councillors feel stuck at what can be done from here. Mixture of students being unhappy with PVC response and Chartwells. Didn't feel like there was a commitment to change. Issues remain around lack of GF options, lack of diversity, costs, accessibility and staff knowledge around dietary requirements.

AL- £2 meal has been replaced by nachos. University wants to work with students, but AL is not happy that jacket/filling has been removed.

SJ- officer team and SU are trying to lobby the university on the issues with Chartwells.

AA- Can lecturers sign a petition?

SJ- We (the SU) must be conscious of representing just students, as that's who we are here to represent, not lecturers.

Student Services

AA- The university needs improvement with student mental health/moral. Students are under pressure. Assessment feedback can be vague/unclear on how to improve. Counselling/Advice/STAR appointments are face to face only at St. Johns.

MO-STAR at Woodbrey because its licenced health centre.

AL_ Help and Advice are looking into more city campus presence, but this can be tricky with space to do appointments.

SW- Students struggling to access student services is an ongoing issue with the university, it comes up every year.

AOB

No further business.

Student Council ended 18:15.

