**WSU Student Council Minutes**

Monday 25/10/2022 at 17:15 (Online via MS Teams)

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|  | **Item** | **Timings** | **Owner** | **Paper Attached** |
| 1. | Welcome & Introductions | 17:15 | GA |  |
| 2. | Apologies | 17:20 | GA |  |
| 3. | Declaration of interest | 17:21 | GA |  |
| 4. | Minutes of previous meeting | 17:22 | GA | In Email |
| 5. | Matters arising | 17:28 | GA | In Email |
| **Approval Items** | | | |  |
| 6. | Student Council Agenda Schedule 2022-23 | 17:30 | KCR | In Email |
| 7. | Officer’s Annual Objectives | 17:35 | AL/ML/ GA | In Email |
| 8. | Officer Reports | 17:50 | AL/ML/ GA | Verbal Update |
| **Reporting Items** | | |  |  |
| 9. | WSU Executive Committee Update | 18:00 | AL | Verbal Update |
| 10. | Sub Council Updates   * Welfare and Inclusion Council * Education Council * Team Worc Council | 18:10 | AL  GA  ML | Verbal Update |
| 11. | Trustee Board Update | 18:20 | AL | Verbal Update |
| 12. | Academic Representation Oversight Group (AROG) Annual Report | 18:25 | GA | In Email |
| 13. | \*Update on live (current) policy and ideas progression | 18:30 |  | In Email |
| **Discussion Items** | | | |  |
| 14. | TEF Submission | 18:35 | KCR |  |
| 15. | Cost of Living | 18:45 | GA |  |
| 16. | City Campus | 18:55 | GA |  |
| **Any Other Business** | | | |  |
| 17. | AOB | 19:05 | GA |  |
| Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13/12/2022 at 17:15 | | | |  |

**Minutes**

1. **Welcome & Introduction**

GA welcomed all members to the first Student Council of the year. GA invited all members to introduce themselves and their role on student council.

1. **Apologies**

GA noted apologies, as above.

1. **Declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting**

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

For - 11

Against - 0

Abstain – 1

The minutes from the previous Student Council on 7th April 2022, were approved.

1. **Matters arising**

No Matters Arising.

1. **Student Council Agenda Schedule 2022/23**

KrCR explained to Student Councillors that this schedule is a framework for how all 2022/23 Student Councils will run and what standing content will be shared throughout the year.

After the Council had been updated, the agenda schedule was then put to a vote to approve:

For - 11

Against – 0

Abstain – 1

The student council agenda schedule was approved by student councillors on 25th October 2022.

1. **Officers Annual Objectives**

The officers gave an overview of the officer annual objectives. GA explained that you as council are here to scrutinise the work we do, and as part of that you need to approve our objectives.

After the council had discussed the objectives, it was then put to a vote to approve:

For - 9  
Against – 0  
Abstain – 3

The officers’ annual objectives were approved by student councillors on 25th October 2022. A Copy of the officer objectives can be available for viewing upon request.

1. **Officer Reports**

The officers gave an overview of their officer reports.

**Al’s Highlights**

* Therapy dogs are back in Peirson every 2 weeks - Manifesto WIN
* WSU Website has now been updated – Manifesto WIN
* Wellbeing Wednesday have now been launched.
* Lobbying University to introduce Gender Neutral toilets as University EDI Committee
* Student Food Cupboard is ready to launch
* Speak Week, we’re coming out to you to hear your feedback
* Free Breakfast, once a month in response to ‘cost of living’ crisis.
* Walk & Talk, dog walking wellbeing session.
* Promoting REN Network, recruiting a committee

JH – “It’s really positive to see that the SU are addressing the ‘cost of living’ crisis by running an SU Breakfast initiative”.

**Gemma’s Highlights**

* Rep recruitment
  + 20/24 School Reps Recruited
  + 201 Course Reps Recruited (data is always changing)
  + Course Rep Training starts week commencing 31st October
* Welcome Festival planning & Execution
  + Over 60 course inductions
* Meeting with Robin Walker to support Students
* Tackling issues around ‘hidden’ course costs
* PAT Forum
  + Revitalizing the PAT system
  + Ensuring students are being support sufficiently.
* Timetabling
  + Addressing issues and concerns that students are facing

OH – “Are you able to tell students that you are meeting with Robin Walker, this is a great thing that students need to know that you’re doing”

**Response:** This has gone out via our social media but we’re aware that not all of our students will follow our platforms.

**Meg’s Highlights**

* Undertook Mental Health First Aid Training
* BUCS Showcase launch
  + Basketball
  + Netball
  + Dance
  + Cheerleading
* Started Recreational sport opportunities conversations with University
* Regularly attending sports development board
* Initial discussions for Varsity have started with Gloucester
* 8 new society applications, which is great to see
* Tea Dance, community engagement initiative
* RAG Week is just around the corner
  + Karaoke Takeover
  + Quiz Takeover
  + I’m a committee member, get me out of here
* Picking a Varsity 22/23 campaign
* Exploring ideas around Society Varsity
* Doner Recruitment, Anthony Nolan drive on the 7th of November

Councillors were asked if they had any questions for the Officer Team.

After the Council had been updated, the Officer Reports were then put to a vote to approve:

For - 9

Against – 0

Abstain – 3

The officer reports were approved by student councillors on 25th October 2022.

1. **WSU Executive Committee Update**

AL explained to the Council what Executive Committee is and then an overview of the most recent meetings of the Executive Committee.

Progress toward the following passed ideas and policies that have been discussed:

* Bookshelf swap has now been completed.
* Women’s workout hour, progress is still underway.
* Student Led Podcasts
* Common Room in Jenny Lind Building

Other key agenda items included:

* Continuing the discussion of ‘Cost of Living’
* Approval of new Gardening & Allotment Society
* Approval of Chess Society
* Approval of Mindfulness Society

No questions were asked.

For - 9

Against – 0

Abstain – 3

The WSU Executive committee updates were approved on 25th October 2022.

1. **Sub Council Updates**
   1. Education Council

GA gave an overview from the most recent Education Council (14/10/2022).

Key highlights included:

* Timetabling
  + Classroom sizes
  + Late evening lectures
* Jenny Lind
* Severn Campus Facilities
* Decolonisation added to Course Design Framework
* Providing more student friendly spaces to students across all campuses
  + Kitchenettes
  + Microwaves
  + Common rooms

No further questions or comments were received.

* 1. TeamWorc Council

ML gave an overview from the most recent TeamWorc Council (13/10/2022).

Key agenda items and outcomes included:

* Electing student council representatives
* BUCS Showcase
* Updates from Rag Committee
* TeamWorc points, how we reward and recognize
* Akuma, going out to Kit-Tender.
* Recreational Sport opportunities
* Upcoming events from sports and societies and how we can support them to increase attendance and engagement

No further questions or comments were received.

* 1. Welfare & Inclusion Council (W&IC)

AL gave an overview from the most recent Welfare & Inclusion Council (10/10/2022).

Key agenda items had included:

* Cultural Calendars
* Cost of Living effects on students
* Updates on SU EDI meetings
* Updates on Sustainability Committee
* Updates from all Network chairs
* Name change of REACH Network
  + - Policy Proposal to change Network name from REACH to REN

KrCR explained that at the end of last academic year Student Council previously approved changes from BAME to REACH. A proposal has been made to change it again as the terminology of REACH wasn’t specific to its purpose. The changes proposed is Race Equality Network.

No questions asked.

It was then put to students councillors for approval via vote:

For - 1

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

The policy proposal changes to the REACH Network were approved on 25th October 2022.

The sub-council updates were then put for approval:

For - 10

Against – 0

Abstain – 1

The sub-council updates were approved on 25th October 2022.

1. **Trustee Board Update**

AL gave an overview of the most recent meeting held on 06/10/2022.

Key updates included:

* HR & Finance committees discussed ‘cost of living’ that affects both our core and student staff
* Appointed the lead trustee of the year
* Discussed and set objectives for strategic planning

No questions were asked.

1. **Academic Representation Oversight Group (AROG) Annual Report**

GA gave an update of AROGs Annual Report, key items to highlight were:

* Highest ever course rep training percentage at 76%
* Drops in CES scores across the majority of Schools
* School pf Psychology was the only School to improve their CES scores.
* School of Psychology saw improvements following a successful Action Plan
* The following schools have been assigned Action Plans for the academic year 2022/23
  + Worcester Business School
  + School of Humanities
  + Three Counties School of Nursing & Midwifery

AROG approved the annual report on 19th October 2022.

No questions or comments were received.

1. **Update on live (Current) Policy Progression\***

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

No questions asked.

1. **TEF Submission**

This year GA is responsible for the Teaching Excellence Framework student submission. This is the first time that they have asked for student opinions. There are three key areas which will be addressed:

* **Student Experience**
  + Academic experience & assessment
  + Resources, support and student engagement
* **Positive Outcomes**
  + Retention (continuation)
  + Achievement
  + Educational Gain
* **Educational Gain**
  + Academic development
  + Personal development
  + Work readiness

KrCR invited all councillors to fill out the TEF survey - <https://forms.office.com/r/DyPtEjP4yD>

GA invited councillors to ask questions.

No questions were asked.

1. **Cost of Living**

GA explained that the conversation about to be had, relates back to the work that happened at the recent ‘Open Student Panel’. GA went through the questions and asked for councillors opinions. 4 key discussions were made:

1. **Is the University doing anything to address the cost of food on campus?**
   1. Frankie: the upfront cost of a Totum card may not be accessible to all students, £25 might not seem like a lot of money but do students have that expendable income.
   2. Totum cards are low quality, break easy. Students may be reluctant to buy them.
   3. Quantity over Quality vs Cost, lack of substance in meals. Not offering vegetables. Small portion of rice and a piece of chicken.
   4. Variety and options of food aren’t accessible at City Campus.
   5. £8 for vegan fish & chips
   6. Vending machines, prices are okay but always empty.
   7. Creating more water fountains across campuses.
2. **Why does the University call its hardship fund an access to learning fund? It’s really confusing to students.**
   1. Hardship fund makes it sound daunting but access to learning fund sells the wrong image.
   2. Forgetting the name of the fund, the fund itself is a really daunting, intimate document which isn’t accessible to students.
3. **Some timetabling means that commuter students are having to come on to campus for one lecture a day which is having a significant cost to students who are commuting, will the University consider revaluating timetables?**
   1. Buses causing issues, students unable to get home post 6PM due to public transport availability.
4. **Cost of car parking has increased.**
   1. Business students at City, cost is expensive (less space for parking)
   2. City campus students, having to walk down a dark road to get to Moors car park.
   3. When the river floods, Moors car park is unusable.
   4. Commuters students are going to struggle if:
      1. Parking is too expensive
      2. There isn’t enough car parking spaces
      3. Public transport is not student facing

GA encouraged councillors that if there are any issues that are facing the students you represent, please reach out to us via our email or social media accounts.

1. **City Campus**

GA explained why this item agenda sits on student council. To ensure that students who aren’t studying at St Johns are being supported. GA proposes to student council that standing agenda item becomes more than city campus as our campuses continue to develop an evolve.

Approval to amend the ‘City Campus’ standing agenda item to be ‘City & Riverside campuses’

For - 10

Against – 0

Abstain – 2

GA noted that we have covered a lot of feedback on city campus and that we may now not have any further updates.

No feedback was given.

1. **AOB**

No additional business.

Student Council was brought to a close.