**Student Council Minutes 10/12/2012**

**Room EE1105 Cotswold**

1. **Attendance**

Saransh Agarwal (Chair), Kynton Swingle, James Brice, Tom Measham, Stephanie Johnston, Lisa Preece, Ellen Joyce, Naomi Moorhouse, Deborah South, Emily Saunders, Robert Nilsson, Zac Pritchard, Eugeni Velinov, Sergio Margarit, Luciana Blaha, Dragoş Hrituleac, Teodora Axente, Consuela Rusu, Curtis Holness, Lee Collyer, Sam Uppal, James Crofts, Duncan Stafford, Paul Johnston, Dave Tomkins (Minutes)

1. **Apologies**

Emily Goodall, Mark Bonnes, Roxandra Maria Crisan, Andy Crawshaw, Anna Rapp

1. **Absences**

Kate Widdop, Ollie Russell

1. **Minutes and accuracy of last meeting dated: (19/11/2012)**

Minutes of previous meeting confirmed by Student Council.

1. **Matters Arising**

No matters arising from minutes.

1. **Declaration of Interest**

Paul explained declarations of interest for new Student Council attendees.

No declarations of Interest made

1. **Co-Opting New Council Members**

As covered during the Student Council of 19th November, up to six independent student councillors can be co-opted onto Student Council. Stephanie Johnston put herself forward as the third such councillor. Stephanie highlighted her experience as a member of the Fresher’s crew, charity work outside the University and an Interest in the proceedings of Student Council. Stephanie was voted in as an independent councillor following a vote of 19 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Curtis Holness was introduced as a member of Consuela’s diversity committee and Ellen Joyce introduced as a Student Academic Representative (StARs) Council member (attending as an observer at this meeting and as a Councillor from the next meeting onwards.)

***Agenda***

1. **Officer Reports**

For Sabbatical Officers’ reports, see appendix page 6.

The reports from Sabbatical and Executive Officers were briefly explained by Saransh to new attendees to Student Council. Kynton began the Sabbatical Officers’ report with the Green Impact award, recruitment for Student Council and elections for Students’ Union positions next year. It was highlighted by Kynton that this Student Council was a trial of a paperless meeting in conjunction with the Green Impact Award.

Sam showed Student Council the new design for the StARs logo via the projector and the new slogan of “Enhancing Quality and Driving Change.” Sam also noted at this point that the Student Led Teaching Awards are being led by the Students’ Union this year rather than the University itself.

Lee reported the success of the “Movember” charity event with the total figure of £1119.11 collected from various sources and saw this as a very good start for the RaG (Raise and Give) group.

Lee attended the inaugural sport development board on the 30th November and is very pleased that the Students’ Union has been put at the heart of the strategic decision making for the provision of sport at the University. Lee hopes that the Student Activity Survey will provide information that will remove barriers to sporting participation from students. Lee also noted John Ryan’s intentions to keep Wednesday afternoons free from lectures as much as possible in order that as many students as possible can take part in sport.

Lee lastly confirmed that the Colours Ball during Celebration Week (13th May to 17th May 2013) will be held at Sixways.

The question was raised that the University has stated before that it has wanted to keep Wednesday afternoons free from lectures at allow students to play sport, however this has not occurred. Lee responded that this had previously occurred in 2006 and with new staff and procedures over time had meant this plan had slipped. Now John Ryan would push this plan, Kynton adding that extra emphasis will be given now it is the University *and* the Union wanting this, rather than just the Students’ Union.

Reports were then given from the Executive Officers.

On representation, James reported that he and Sam would be speaking with the Worcester Award with regards the involvement of students having worked with Kate Gynn, Student Advisor.

Eugeni told Council that £217 had been raised for Children in Need and that the #Teamworc wristbands had been selling well with 75p per wristband going to the 4 charities the RaG group is supporting. Lee added that about 200 wristbands have been sold so far.

Luciana said that the International Committee were rounding up the year with a Christmas party to be held on 12th December. The invitation was extended to Student Council and information is on the International Committee page online. A further initiative is that a calendar of International Committee events is to go up in the International Centre.

 Luciana stated that the International group is looking to recruit next year to the Committee in order that students can experience what the Committee does. She noted that the whole Committee bar one is a third year student and what is needed are more first and second year students to participate. This recruitment process was discussed between Luciana and Sam who felt that students should be able to put themselves forward for participation in the International Committee rather than a selection process occurring.

On the Diversity front, Consuela informed council that she had emailed the Dyslexia service regarding discrepancies in charging for tests, yet had received no replies. Sam said she will meet with Consuela to discuss how to move forward.

Finally Duncan reported the Environmental Committee had been working with Kynton on the Green Impact award and confirmed that activities had been planned for the Go Green week to be held in February 2012. Activities include the world record tree hugging attempt.

There were no questions following the Executive Officers’ reports.

1. **Honorary Memberships: Linda Wilson, Sam Lewis, Helen Anglin**

Kynton informed Student Council that old policies are kept in folders behind the Students’ Union Welcome Desk. One of these policies was bestowing honorary memberships to the Students’ Union onto former staff members and Sabbatical Officers to which Kynton proposed that this be done for Linda Wilson (former Shop Manager) Sam Lewis and Helen Anglin (former Sabbatical Officers).

 A question of what special rights the honorary membership would give was raised. Paul answered that no rights or privileges are involved, although honorary members could get NUS Extra cards.

 When put to the vote, honorary memberships were passed for all three with Linda receiving 20 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention, Sam 21 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstentions and Helen 20 for, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

1. **Motions**

Paul explained motions for new Student Council attendees. Paul noted here that motions with financial implications can be rejected by the Trustees and sent back to Student Council for reconsideration.

**Motion on Policy Lapse**

For full motion see appendix page 8.

Kynton proposed that Policies passed by Student Council should be reviewed every two years. This would allow older policies that were out of date to lapse and be removed whilst relevant policies could be kept in place. Following no questions from the floor and a second from Duncan the motion was passed with 21 votes for, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

**Motion on Attendance**

For full motion see appendix page 9.

Kynton’s second motion was to adopt the non-attendance policy that the Executive Committee abides by for the use by Student Council. This policy states that any member not being able to attend must send their apologies for non attendance with a valid reason. Should any member be missing for two consecutive meetings a vote of no confidence can remove a Councillor from post. Kynton stressed that if reasons for the apology are not considered valid, a vote of no confidence can also be used.

 There were no questions raised from the floor and so following a second from Sam the motion was passed with 20 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

1. **Motions from the floor**

No motions were raised from the floor.

1. **Election Committee**

For the full Election Committee document, see appendix page 10.

Kynton told Council that an Election Committee was required to ensure that elections for Executive Officers are conducted in a fair and equitable way which does not advantage any candidate over any others. Kynton asked if any Council members were interested if they could contact him. He stressed here that anyone interested in being on this committee cannot run for an Executive Officer post and cannot have any relationship with Executive candidates that might bias their actions. Sergio pointed out that people volunteering for the Election Committee cannot know who will be running for Executive positions yet and asked what happens if it turns out they do have some kind of relationship with someone running for a post. Paul replied that potential Election Committee members can state that to the best of their knowledge they have no relationship to potential Executive Officer candidates and should this occur they can resign from their place on the Committee.

 James Brice, Stephanie Johnston, Emily Saunders and Zac Pritchard put themselves forward as members of the election committee.

1. **Any other business**

Duncan informed Council of the Charity Dance Show being held at the Pear Tree by the Dance Society (Saints) following the meeting. The show would begin at 19:30 with tickets of £3 for entrance. Half of the proceeds would go to the society and the other half be donated to the charities the RaG group have decided upon.

Luciana asked whether Baskerville Halls could be accredited by the University or Students’ Union following queries from students. Sam replied that the University will not do this as the halls have been deemed not fit for habitation by students. The landlords of the halls have also been less than reliable in the past. Kynton added that even with renovations to the halls, the location of them is an issue being in the centre of a residential area. Complaints have been received from local residents no matter what the behaviour of students has been. Lisa said she had a contact within the City Council should any students be enquiring about accreditation for accommodation.

Naomi told the Council about a bicycle security event being held in the second week of February following the number of thefts on campus. It was noted that a similar subject is being covered as part of Go Green week.

Kynton asked how the Council felt about the meeting being paperless. Feedback received stated that the Council were happy carrying on with this, however all documentation should be sent around beforehand rather than being projected at the meeting.

Sergio said that 35 students had attended a presentation on exchange visits abroad. He asked whether the StARs system could be used to disseminate knowledge of the exchange system, a proposal that Sam said would be fine.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

18:00, Monday 4th February 2013

1. **Appendix**



**STUDENT COUNCIL**

***10th December 2012***

**SABBATICAL OFFICERS REPORT**

**Purpose: To update Council of the work of the Sabbatical Officers**

**Author: Kynton Swingle (President), Sam Uppal (VP Education), Lee Collyer (VP Student Experience)**

**Overview**

First of all, Merry Christmas. With only three weeks since our last meeting, this is a slightly shorter report then ones previously. As reported at last Council, we are undertaking the Green Impact Award, hence why this meeting is now paperless (thanks for the pointer Andy). Since our last meeting, we have pushed forward with our ‘green initiative’ which Duncan Stafford (Sustainability Officer) will report on.

Recruitment for the vacant spaces on Student Council is going well, with Sam opening nominations to the Student Academic Representatives.

Planning has also started for next semester regarding Elections for Students’ Union positions so watch this space.

**StARs Branding**

A new logo and slogan has been created for the StARs brand. It is hoped that from this new, brighter, more professional branding StARs will be more recognisable and StARs will be more prominent throughout the University.

**Movember**

At the last student council we were just over half way through Movember, at the conclusion of the month we managed to raise a combined total of £1119.11. The money was raised via a number of avenues, namely the Worcester Uni Movember account online. £327 was raised through chlamydia screening and in the SU and the remaining £65 or so from collection boxes at Berry’s and the SU shop.

I think it’s interesting to point out that this is double the amount that was passed through RAG in the previous year.

**Sports Development Board**

I also attended the inaugural sport development board on the 30th November; University Branding, Wednesday lectures and Varsity were just a few of the items on the agenda. An outcome of the meeting was that the Student’s union has been put at the heart of creating a strategic plan for sport at the University. Furthermore, John Ryan (Pro-Vice Chancellor Students) expressed that he would like to, where possible, remove Wednesday afternoon lectures from timetabling. I also took the idea of a’ Student Activity Survey’ to the board; basically I want to create a survey to gather evidence on student activities. This would help us to understand better, why students are or are not involved within the Student’s Union and could significantly aid our recruitment of sports & society members and Volunteers in the future. John & Glyn Harding (Senior sport lecturer supported this idea and stated that they would like to roll it out via SOLE page subject to a pilot run.

**Celebration Week**

This year we’ve decided to combine three end-of year awards ceremonies into the same week, Celebration Week, taking place the week of 13th May. On Monday 13th May the Volunteering & Society Awards (VoScAs) will take place at Worcestershire County Cricket club. On Wednesday 15th May, the Colours Ball will take place at Sixways Stadium, as voted for by members of sports clubs). Finally on Friday 17th May we have the Student Led Teaching Awards (SLTAs) taking place in the Pear Tree. Student Led Teaching Awards planning is underway and we are putting a bid together to get some help with funding from NUS. We are hoping to make the awards ceremony really impressive so the University hand over the SLTA’s to us in full next year.

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Student Council Motion: **Motion on Policy Lapse**

Proposer: **Kynton Swingle**

Seconded:

Date: **10/12/2012**

**Introduction**

Over many years the SU has passed many bits of policy from attending a demo in 2012 to attending a demo in 2002. The rather sad thing is that all policy remains in place until it is changed or removed. We have no formal means of removing policy and therefore we still believe we should attend a demo in 2002 (among many others).

The easiest way to deal with this issue is to create another policy (yes I know) which states that we should review all our policies after two years. The policies that are due review will be brought to the meetings and council can decide whether or not it should remain a policy or whether let the policy lapse (disappear from our policy folder).

**Student Council Notes:**

1. That the SU does not have any formal policy lapse regulations
2. That there are large amounts of outdated policies within the policy folder of the SU

**Student Council Believes:**

1. That keeping outdated policy is pointless and could interfere with new business of the council (a good example of this would be if the SU had a policy not to support NUS demonstrations, then we could not attend any in subsequent years as we had policy forbidding us to go)

**Student Council Resolves:**

1. To review all policy when it reaches 2 years old
2. To decide which policies it wishes to keep and which it wishes to allow to lapse

Signed by Proposer Signed by Seconder

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Student Council Motion: **Attendance Policy for Student Councillors**

Proposer: **Kynton Swingle**

Seconded:

Date: **10/12/2012**

**Student Council Notes:**

This academic year has seen an increase in the numbers attending Student Council, and improving the student-led democratic process of the Students’ Union.

A quorate Council has key responsibilities in deciding the policies of the Students’ Union.

**Student Council Believes:**

With Council having an important role in making and passing the policies of the Union, and in turn shaping the emphasis of the Executive Committee’s work it is important that we have the necessary number of councillors to make Council quorate and able to pass or reject various motions.

**Student Council Resolves:**

That in line with the ‘2 strike-rule’ the Executive Committee have to abide by, this rule should be extended to Council with each Councillor having to send an appropriate apology if they are unable to make a meeting. If two consecutive meetings are missed with no apology or no appropriate apology, the councillor can be removed from their post on Student Council through a majority vote of no confidence.

Signed by Proposer Signed by Seconder



**Registered charity 1145192**

**Elections Committee**

In order to ensure that elections for Executive Officers are conducted in a fair and equitable way which does not advantage any candidate(s) over any others, Worcester Students’ Union appoints an Elections Committee, made up of students.

The Elections Committee is responsible for approving the elections regulations and timetable and for confirming acceptance of the candidates’ nominations. With the support of the Returning Officer (appointed by NUS) and the Deputy Returning Officer (the University’s Pro Vice Chancellor Students), the Elections Committee also has responsibility for authorising candidates’ campaign materials and expenses and considering any complaints from candidates in respect of the behaviour and activities of other candidates and/or their supporters.

The Elections Committee is normally chaired by the SU President and made up of an additional four current students, selected by Student Council. This is a voluntary position and students may count the time they spend undertaking training and Committee duties towards their volunteering hours for their V-Records. Members of the Elections Committee will need to be available via email and occasionally for short meetings during the period from 11th February to Friday 8th March 2013.

**Eligibility**

In order to fulfil their role, members of the Elections Committee need to be objective and to treat all candidates impartially. In order to be eligible to volunteer for this role, students are therefore required to sign a declaration that they will not stand for any elected position and that they will not show support for any particular candidate(s) by campaigning, wearing or displaying anything which demonstrates preferences or using social media to do so.

Volunteers are invited to inform the Chair of Student Council that they would like to be considered, either at Student Council on Monday 10th December 2012 or, if spaces remain unfilled after that meeting, by emailing k.swingle@worc.ac.uk

 The membership of the Elections Committee will be confirmed as soon as all places have been allocated.