Student Council

Tuesday 11th march 2014

EEG132

1. Attendance; Kynton Swingle, Tom Clarke, Lee Collyer, Zav Pritchard, Wseley Hudson, Luciana Blaha, Luke Hennessy, Shakil Ahmed, Cathy Sutcliffe, Val Turner, Lauren Adams, Elliott Nixon, Holly Fields, Deborah South, Ellen Joyce, Chantal Vinyard, Hugo Sugg, Amy Stringer, Jessica Burger, Philip Brookes, Joe Hayes
2. Apologies; Emily Saunders, Katie Vass, Helen Manners, Eric Burglund.
3. Absent;
4. Minutes of last meeting; passed pending attendees list being attached
5. Officer reports; the officer reports were submitted written and sent out in advance. KS gave an overview of his report and reviewed the action to be taken on the motions passed at the previous meeting. The Halal food issue will be raised by the chief executive in a meeting with the new Aramark manager, Paul Johnston will also deal with the nightline proposal at a meeting with the university on Monday 24th march and the lecturer strike salaries being donated to a student hardship fund will be discussed by the sabbatical officers with university senior management. After a question from Debbie South it was reported that 487 responses were achieved during the first round of SU on tour and the analysis of the information from the comment cards will be undertaken shortly. Have introduced his own report Tom Clarke was asked about the StARs selection process and Tom Clarke suggested that he would be providing an election template for lecturers to follow to simplify and standardize the selection of representatives in the new academic year. There was an issue about standarisation based on class sizes and the complexity of those doing joint honours. Chantal Vinyard asked about the printing credits that were being proposed by TC and both agreed that although we would initially be asking for £50 this may not be the final figure.

During discussion it was noted that there was criticism of the 1st and 2nd year survey as some of the questions were nearly impossible to answer for those on joint honours and how much useful information the university will get from the survey.

Ellen Joyce suggested that Wesley Hudson’s report appeared vague and Wes agreed that it was not as good as it could have been.

On The report of the RAG officer Debbie South asked for dates of RAG events after which Luke Hennessy outlined the upcoming events and the dates involved. When asked about Worcester RAG week it was reported that we currently do not have a RAG week and this was down mostly to a lack of volunteers. Chantal suggested that we should overcome the difficulties and start our own RAG week. It was reported that the final total for the year will not be available until the end of the financial year and this would be reported on.

Zac Pritchard gave a verbal report as he not written one suggesting he had ideas surrounding diversity workshops and liberation training. There were no questions

1. Executive committee Role review; Kynton Swingle outlined the election results and the information on the circulated paper. Luciana Blaha spoke about her motion for the future on international student’s officer. It was explained that both the SU officer role and the university role had the same name and this caused confusion for students the motion also suggested that the international officer should have a larger role in exchange opportunities. Council felt that the role of the international students officer should be to hold the university to account and promote the interests of international students to the university and the rest of the student body. There was a long discussion on the name change and eventually it was agreed to call the role; Non Uk Students Officer but to keep the role description as it was. It was agreed that an extra amount of education and training will be needed for the student elected and for the university to fully understand the role.

The role of Womens officer was agreed to be taken out of the diversity role as the SU could use its election software to only let women stand and vote. The software did not have enough information to identify the other areas but this will be worked on. The question was raised by Val Turner that if we have a womens officer should we not also have a mens officer. The discussion centred on a need for balance and was argued against by those who felt that the womens liberation movement was a different thing to the demographics at the university of Worcester. Eventually it was agreed that should the men on council decide they need representation then they would bring proposals but not were needed at this time. (it was a long discussion)

It was further agreed that only non uk students could stand or vote in the election of the non uk student officer and that only women could stand and vote for the position of women’s officer.

1. Motions from the floor

Tennis; this motion was withdrawn based on the information that the university intends to build tennis courts on the sand astro.

Time 4 change; Zac Pritchard introduced the motion and suggested that the SU needed to do more to encourage non alcoholic events. It was agreed that to added the word “Continue” when describing the work of the students union. This motion was seconded by Chantal and the motion was passed

Voice; The basic question surrounding this motion was how the voice is held accountable. Zac introducing the motion felt that there was some confusion about who has overall control of the standards within the voice newspaper. There was a wide ranging discussion and eventually it was decided that more research was needed and the motion would be brought to the next council.

Mental health; seconded by Chantal and passed

Smoke free campus: Ellen Joyce asked why if the university was going smoke free did the SU shop still sell cigarettes. A discussion ensued around the commercial benefit of selling these products including whether we should offer E cigarettes. A paper will be prepared for council in the near future outlining the issues.

Charity request; KS outlined an idea from a member of university staff regarding a campaign to highlight the sexual exploitation of children aged 17 and below in Brazil to coincide with the world cup. The campaign was known as “Happy Child”. Council asked whether they should agree all charity giving at meetings and KS agreed to provide council with a list of those charities that have approached us in recent times although council did vote to keep with the current system of vetting by officers before bringing all requests to council.

Thus endeth the meeting

Next meeting 1st April 2014