**Minutes for Student Council**

**12th December 2013**

**5.15pm room EE1106**

1. Attendance; Kynton Swingle, Tom Clarke, Lee Collyer, Paul Johnston (Chief Executive)
2. Apologies;
3. Absent;
4. Minutes and accuracy of last meeting dated: (14/11/2013).
5. Matters Arising: there were no matters arising which did not appear on the agenda.
6. Declaration of Interest; there were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

**AGENDA**

1. Officer Reports; The AGM held on 3rd December was attended by 186 people all motions in question were passed, including renewal of affiliation to BUCS and NUS. The next review will be in May. The volunteering scheme will allow volunteers to log volunteering hours online by January 10th. Plans for Varsity are underway, and work to introduce a ‘Student’s Union on Tour’ will be started by talking to as many students about possible and gaining feedback. Clothing such as sports kit will be sold at the SU shop by semester 2. There are 131 students representing their academic courses as StARs in total and have all given lots of useful feedback- the number of StARs has decreased slightly, however, more positive feedback was seen from the sessions this year when compared to previous years. StARs forum feedback has not yet been posted online yet, but is due to be posted in the very near future. The Students Union also raised £550 for Children in need, Pizza Hut also helped raise £75 towards this, by auctioning off 15 pizzas.

Part-time officers- LGBT society had a labour event where there was an issue with internal conflict that was resolved by the Diversity officer, and election of the committee was introduced. For International students remaining in Worcester for the holidays, Christmas dinner events will be taking place, enabling international students to get a feel for ‘British Christmas’. The international students have also had the opportunity to go to the German Christmas market in Birmingham. In January there will be language cafes to help students communicate new languages; the room will be booked at the Hive once a week, to pilot the scheme. There will also be new exchange students coming and events will be taking place for that. To enable more student involvement- both British and International, International office may start to advertise events on social networking, such as Facebook, to increase awareness and participation of events taking place.

1. Constitutional Amendment; It was discussed that our constitution compared to large Universities such as Birmingham, Leeds and Loughborough had a higher number of students attend (in ratio to total number of students). The quorum has been changed from 1.5% attendance to 0.75% which means a total of 73 students will be needed instead of 146. In terms of meeting the quorum for the AGM the system has been arranged so that if the quorum is not reached in 2 AGM meetings, motions are passed on to the Student Council to vote for/against. The next AGM will take place in May which means encouragement will still be needed to get as many students there. However there was discussion on the date of that meeting due to it being exam time possible lack of students attending therefore it will be negotiated further.

1. Election and Officer Review; Welfare was discussed as it is seen as an important issue that is tagged onto Lee’s job but he doesn’t feel as though he is paying enough attention to it due to lack of time. Many different ideas were put forward, to have all Kynton, Lee and Tom have welfare incorporated in all their jobs, or to perhaps discuss the option of employing a full time or part time welfare officer. Performance of perhaps a single part-time officer will be assessed by student feedback and if underperforming, taking the issue to council. As discussed, welfare comes under many headings which led to the discussion of having all part time officers involved in welfare, creating a ‘hub’ of officers dedicated to health and welfare. It was concluded that a specialist is needed; someone who will not need telling what to do, following the aims of the Student’s Union (student based & led decisions). Zac (Diversity officer) also suggested that perhaps more campaign action should be put into place for preventative measures surrounding welfare and mental health. However, there was no conclusive decision about whom, or how many should take on responsibilities of welfare. Therefore Kynton suggested that council members should formulate their ideas and send them to him as soon as possible.

Elections for part time officers were discussed- it was questioned whether more officers are needed, and whether more council meetings are needed. Email suggestions will need to be sent over to Kynton over the Christmas break. It was discussed that council is perhaps too much behind closed doors, and more communication to students needs to be put into place, to relay what it is that the council does, to students. It was suggested the Student council needs to be advertised more widely, and roles of officers should be made more transparent. There was also at the end of the meeting a discussion on whether elections should be done electronically for all officers, and also the timing of elections for officers (It was suggested that elections for part-time officers should be done at the same time as election of the sabbatical officers) but this will be researched into further and discussed further in another council meeting.

1. Strategic Plan; A rough draft was sent to all council members which demonstrates what the plans are for the Students Union in the next few years. The final draft of the strategic plan has not been approved yet, but with some minor changes is to be approved very soon. The visions pinpointed in this plan are underpinned by the operations plan of other departments within the university. There were 4 main themes outlined in the strategic plans (all of which can be seen in the original document). It was commented that there seems to be no emphasis on mature students, however, Paul highlighted that mature students are not a group of people who meet as a community, but instead each individuals, with different rationales for their attendance at the university. Therefore, emphasis on improving conditions for mature students is labelled below ‘Individuals’.

Kynton also pointed out that the union aims to work with more local partnerships, such as Tramps, instead of larger, commercial companies. Kynton also emphasised the fact that the Student’s Union will never be driven by these commercial companies. The final draft will be completed soon and sent out for trustees to approve; it will then be shown to the board of governors and then be published round the SU. This will aim to be completed by mid January and if any council members have comments or queries they will need to email Kynton as soon as possible.

1. Date of next meeting: Near the end of the meeting 4 people had to leave early, and it was bought to attention that the quorum wasn’t being met, and therefore, no motions can be passed. Motions will be transferred and voted on in the next meeting. It was discussed that these considerable motions needed to be discussed before election in February, and so it was decided a meeting in January would be attempted. The specific time and date of the meeting is to be decided by councillors via doodle.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:50pm.