**Student Council Agenda 19/11/2012**

**Room EEG020**

1. **Attendance**

Kynton Swingle, Sam Uppal, Lee Collyer, Andy Crawshaw, Debbie South, Dragos Hrituleac, Emily Saunders, Eugeni Velinov, James Brice, James Crofts, Kate Widdop, Lisa Preece, Luciana Blaha, Mark Bonnes, Naomi Moorhouse, Ollie Russell, Saransh Agarwal (Chair), Tom Measham, Zac Pritchard, Paul Johnston, Emily Goodall, Robert Nilsson, Anna Rapp, Sergio Margarit, Roxandra Maria Crisan, Dave Tomkins (minutes)

Introductions were given by all attending

1. **Apologies**

Duncan Stafford – Medical Appointment

1. **Absences**

None

1. **Minutes of last meeting dated: (22/10/2012)**

Minutes of previous meeting confirmed by Council.

1. **Matters Arising**

People and Planet group – A potential People and Planet group had been raised by Duncan at the last meeting, with Lee stating that no procedures had been started to formerly set up the group. No further actions have been taken.

Transport Policy – The new sports transport policy was confirmed as the previous meeting had seen a vote with twelve in favour, none opposed and one abstention to adopting the policy.

1. **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of interest made***Agenda***

1. **Council Elections – to Co-Opt members to Council**

As per Bye Law 3, line 1.19, up to six Independent Student Councillors can be co-opted onto student council. Two students had put themselves forward for this; Debbie South and Roxandra Maria Crisan. Both Debbie and Roxandra put their cases forward for being co-opted. Debbie drew on her experience at the University with involvement in the Rowing Club, Volunteering, Campaigning and as a University Ambassador as well as participation in volunteering outside of the Uni. Roxandra related her volunteering experience and her membership of the Raise And Give group to Council.

Saransh asked both Debbie and Roxandra to leave the room to allow for a vote to Co-Opt either as Independent Councillors. Debbie received 17 votes for, 0 against and 4 abstentions. Roxandra received 16 votes for, 0 against and 5 abstentions. Both were invited back into the room following the successful votes.

1. **Officers Reports (Full time and Part-time Officers)**

**Sabbatical Officers Reports**

Paul explained the Officers reports for the new attendees at Student council highlighting the role that Council has in supervising the actions of the Sabbatical Officers. The Sabbatical Officers report is in full in the Appendix, page 10.

Kynton began with the Students’ Union website which had been down for a few days. The company that supplies the website, BAM, will no longer be supplying Union websites and therefore the decision has been made to transfer the website to MSL (Membership Solutions Limited) who are based out of Warwick University. There are currently discussions being held between the Students’ Union, the University and MSL to allow MSL access to information that would help support the website they will provide.

The Students’ Union will also be participating in the Green Impact Award again this year. This is an initiative run by the National Union of Students that will show Worcester Students’ Union has sustainability, good practice and environmental issues high on its agenda. Kynton is looking for volunteers to help collect the evidence for this award.

The four charities that the Students’ Union will be supporting this year are Worcester Snoezelen, New Hope Worcester, Acorns Hospice and Onside. The Executive Committee agreed these charities after discussions with the RAG Group and Eugeni Velinov; the Executive Officer.

As of the morning of 19th November, the planned trip to London to participate in the National Demo has been cancelled. This was due to only one student from the University signing up to go. If students are participating in the National Demo individually Kynton stressed that the Students’ Union would be able to provide support. Due to this cancellation the Students’ Union will be looking to organise a show of support through the sports teams displaying the National Demo t shirts during the matches to be held on Wednesday.

Sam reported that the online Student Academic Representative (StARs) online training had been launched that day which would reach out to students at partner institutions who would not have been able to attend the training sessions in person. The VP Forum was covered in greater detail in a separate agenda item (see item no. 9). At this point Sam stated that the turnout of 65 StARs constituted a very good turnout with the Forum being attended by the head of ILS, Anne Hannaford.

Lee spoke to the group regarding #Teamworc. This was a branding logo for last year’s varsity clothing which has now been developed into a brand to encompass all student activities including Volunteering and Societies as well as sporting teams. #Teamworc wristbands will be available from the Students’ Union shop for £1 with 75p going to the charities as agreed with the RAG committee.

**Executive Officer reports**

Mark informed the group that he is looking into setting up a mature students committee.

James has been working with Sam and Ruth Christie (Students’ Union membership services manager) to make sure that students know how to enhance their learning experience. James has also been raising awareness of the Worcester Award, talking with students and receiving feedback in the canteen.

Regarding RAG, Eugeni was not able to provide a figure yet for the amount collected by the group for Children In Need. The Movember event is on-going and a bake sale is to be done soon.

Committee T shirts are being printed for the International Committee members and Luciana also spoke to Council about the World Festival held between the 16th and 18th November. Not as many students attended as the International Committee would have liked. This was attributed to a lack of advertising due to the busy schedule of the International Committee, made up as they are by Third Year students. Those who did take part, including the live bands enjoyed the event and another event is being planned for next year. The International Committee is to meet to review the festival.

1. **Report from VP Forum**

Following on from the Sabbatical Officers reports, Sam went into further detail about the VP Forum held on 14/11/2012. The Forum was hosted by Sam with John Ryan (pro-Vice Chancellor Students) and Anne Hannaford (Director of ILS) attending. The agenda mainly concerned the Hive, allowing students to get their opinion heard about the facility. Sam plans that at the next VP forum to be held on 12/12/2012, written responses from Sam, John and Anne will be delivered to questions raised at this particular meeting. The Hive will not be on the agenda until next semester.

Feedback was given for students at Council who had attended the forum including Dragos who felt that the Forum was a good experience. James and Lee thought the forum could have been longer. Sam agreed that she had received similar feedback form Institute Reps. Sam will use the forum to deliver feedback to and from the University as one item on the National Student Survey (NSS) shows that the University struggles in this aspect.

Katie queried the successes that the Forum had enjoyed. Sam replied that StARs are being taken to help rearrange the computer spaces to make them more accessible following feedback given by students. The Hive will be providing more laptop space on level 4 following comments from students on Facebook. Anne said that the forum was useful. Emily asked whether the changes are making the Hive a better working space for students. Sam said that statistics were being gathered and these would be distributed.

1. **Motions – Hive motion, Demo motion**

Paul explained the process of raising motions with the council attendees. As the Student Council is the main policy making body within the Students’ Union it has the capacity for raising and passing motions. On this occasion, both of the motions were proposed by Kynton but Paul stressed that any council member can propose a motion. In this instance, Paul as Students’ Union Chief Executive, Kynton as Student President and Ruth Christie can give assistance to council members wishing to raise motions. For students who are not council members, they would need to speak to Kynton about having a motion raised on their behalf.

When proposing a motion, the student gives a speech about why the fellow council members should vote and support their idea. The floor is then opened for questions and the discussion of arguments for and against the motion.

Questions were raised by students about the motion process, Andy asking whether any previous motions were available to look at. Paul answered that previous motions are kept at the Students’ Union Welcome Desk and these can be sent out electronically. **After a follow up question Paul said the previous motions should be available online but he would look into this matter further.** Paul noted here the possibility of Policy Lapse should any previous motions become out of date.

Mark asked on which subjects motions could be raised, the answer being anything although Paul would expect that vexatious motions should be dismissed by the Council.

**Hive Motion**

Kynton raised a Motion with the Student Council regarding the Hive, his argument being that the Students’ Union should be making an official stance regarding the Hive as a good many students have had issues with the provision of facilities. Kynton noted the same service and facilities given to students as the general public when students were paying fees to the University for courses and the resources those fees entail. Also students were paying for parking permits that did allow for parking at the Hive. (See Appendix page 9 for motion in full.)

The floor was opened to questions the first of which being about the parking issue, querying the free parking at Riverside. Kynton replied that it was an issue with parking at the Hive itself. There followed a discussion with regards the University policy on car parking with one Council member reckoning that as most students would live within the three mile radius around the University and Hive, parking at that facility was not a relevant issue. The mature student representatives argued strongly against this highlighting the large percentage of the student body made up of mature students and the amount of these students who commute some distance to use the facilities.

Sam asked whether the Motion could portray the Hive in a more positive light acknowledging that it is a good facility but recognising the running issues with it. Kynton’s answer was that the Motion should represent opinions of the students who do not see the Hive in such an evenly balanced light.

A question was raised whether there was a plan for a book collection facility at St. Johns campus. Kynton said there was nothing in place yet but it is an issue he would like to discuss. Debbie stated that The Voice student newspaper had run an article stating there would be no book drop off at all on campus. Kynton replied that after the VP forum, the possibility of a book drop off has been raised.

Further travel items were discussed in relation to the Hive with Zac asking if a bus service could be provided between St. Johns Campus and the Hive. Sam said that the 31B bus route has just been tendered to First Bus and therefore would not change any time soon. Luciana commented that many students were not happy with the service First Bus provides. Kynton stated more student input was needed following a comment on providing exclusive student parking spaces at the Hive in conjunction with the City Council and the University. Luciana informed the group that David Green and the University sit on the Council of Businesses in Worcester and with backing from the Students’ Union could push more for these initiatives.

Finally regarding this motion, Roxy said that students were unhappy with the 10:00PM closing time of the Hive preventing studying. Luciana replied that 24 hour study access is provided on City Campus in the canteen, however only 6 computers are available for this. Sam also noted the 24 hour study access in the Peirson building.

In order that it could be voted for and adopted Saransh told Council that a second for the motion was needed. A second for the motion was raised and the motion adopted with twenty votes for, zero against and one abstention.

**Demo Motion**

The Council members were informed that motions need to be confirmed with them for auditing purposes to show why money has been spent on different activities.

This motion summarised the increasing financial strains students are put under for their education at Worcester University and called for official support for the National Demo being held on 21st November with subsidized transport for students. Further aims were to work with the local community and educational establishments against funding cuts. (The motion in full is included in the appendix page 8). Kynton was keen to stress here that the motion extend beyond the demo and work to promote the rights of students and support them in the future entering the job market and getting on the property ladder.

As the official organised trip for the demo had been cancelled due to lack of interest Paul told the group that if any students were looking to go under their own steam, the Students’ Union would support them. Katie stated that she would be driving to the protest and therefore she had four spaces to take any other students wanting to go.

The Council then discussed the cancelling of the planned coach trip and the lack of uptake from students. Dragos asked whether it would have been beneficial to plan for a smaller number of students to go initially and stated students would have been more aware had the advertising commenced earlier. Kynton and Sam responded that promotional material for the demo was displayed in plenty of time and although other Council members professed not to have seen the advertisements, Kynton stressed that it cannot be helped that some students miss the message. Lee added here that the Students’ Union has no way of getting in touch with all students like the University can via email, only the students who gave contact details and consent via the lanyard initiative.

Support for the National Demo was questioned with the opinion that no students cared about the event. In response Kynton said that students had asked whether the Students’ Union was taking part in this event and that the issue is that initial interest did not materialise into confirmed attendees. Katie agreed with Kynton’s statement adding that it is difficult to get students on board with these campaigns, Lee adding that the student body as a whole is not political and hesitant to get involved. Luciana’s argument to this was that issues raised by NUS are not political but national issues relevant to students. Sam related feedback received from StARs asking that issues be made applicable to students rather than repeating wholesale NUS ‘propaganda’. Further comments involved including NUS campaign information in inductions and NUS representatives on campus. The response from the Sabbatical Officers was that these issues were included during Induction talks and that they are the NUS representatives on campus, Worcester University and Students’ Union being too small to warrant a permanent NUS Rep.

Saransh asked whether a second to the motion could be given. This was given and the motion was adopted with thirteen votes in favour, two opposing and eight abstentions.

iHive

1. **Any other business**
   * + **Bicycle Thefts**

Mark informed Student Council that thefts of bicycles off campus are a major issue facing students. Mark has spoken to the Police about the matter and has been informed that there is little the Police can do having already arrested the culprits two or three times already this year. The thieves are organised and will try to move stolen bicycles on within 24 hours, so any students who have their bicycle stolen are advised to check bicycle shops and pawn brokers in case the bikes end up there. Mark stressed that students need to be proactive, pressurising the University and the Hive to do something about the issue. To assist students the Green Bike Company is offering a 10% discount on security items to any University Staff and Students.

Relating to the thefts, Luciana questioned the effectiveness and purpose of the “Thieves Operating in this Area” signs. Mark replied that Security has so far been ineffective in stopping the thefts. Mark also confirmed that Kate Gynn (Student Advisor) has made David Green aware of the issue. Kate Gynn and Lee have met with security, Lee pushing Security to challenge people acting suspiciously around bicycles and bike sheds / racks. Lee delivered statistics of thefts to Council stating that between January and November, the number of bicycles reported stolen is less in 2012 compared to 2011. However it is reckoned that this is due to a communications issue with students being unaware how to report thefts, particular emphasis being given to the education needed for students on this matter.

The group discussed difficulties with the Students’ Union specifically recommending certain security products or services available from particular shops. Potentially, bad feedback could be given to the Students’ Union should any bicycles be stolen, even if the students in question are using security items as recommended. Security has stated they would like to test a range of locks.

* + - **Bake Sale**

Debbie South informed Council that she is holding a bake sale on 30h November to raise further funds for the “Movember” charity event.

* + - **Shoebox Appeal**

Following the previous Council Meeting, James queried whether a shoebox appeal was to be undertaken at all. **Sam replied she would investigate.**

* + - **All Student Email**

Sergio queried whether the all Student Email could be used to send information round as does Registration for example. The sabbatical Officers answered that the provision of this facility for the Students’ Union is very limited.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 10th December

**Meeting Closed:** 19:30

1. **Appendix**

**National Demo Motion for Student Council November 19th 2012**

NUS Demonstration

Council notes

1. the increase in tuition fees for students at the university of Worcester in 2012
2. the proposed increases for university of Worcester fees to £8650 in 2013
3. the continued government cuts in education and in other areas that directly affect the students at the university of Worcester
4. that NUS has called for a demonstration on 21st November to highlight the cuts and asks us to “reimagine” our education

Council believes

1. that Worcester students union should support the NUS demonstration on 21st November

Council instructs

1. The executive committee to organize transport for those wishing to go to the demonstration and to subsidize this travel.
2. to build contact within the local community and nearby educational establishments to continue to work against education cuts
3. to report back to council on progress on this area of work

Proposed by Kynton Swingle (President)

**Hive Motion for Council 19th November 2012**

The Hive

Council notes

1. the opening of the Hive library in July 2012
2. the closure for books of the Peirson library on st johns campus
3. the provision of council car parks around the hive area

Council believes

1. the provision for getting and returning books on st johns campus is inadequate
2. the free parking opportunities near the hive is inadequate
3. the hive does not give adequate space the exclusive use by students at the university of Worcester

Council resolves

1. to continue to campaign for a library provision which meets the needs of the students at the university of Worcester
2. To campaign with Worcester city council to ensure adequate provision for parking in the area around the hive.
3. To ensure we communicate our concerns to the university and other external stakeholders in library provision in Worcester.

Proposed by: Kynton Swingle (President)



**STUDENT COUNCIL**

***19th November 2012***

**SABBATICAL OFFICER REPORT**

**Purpose: For a regular report for the Sabbatical Officers**

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

**New Website**

As you may have seen, the Students’ Union website was down for several days within the last month. This is due to the company we currently run our website with, BAM Marketing, are moving their priorities away from Students’ Union’s websites and onto other areas of student marketing. With their company changing direction, and with our contract with them coming to an end, we have needed to find an alternative website provider. We have been in contact with Membership Solutions Limited, a website provider run out of Warwick Students’ Union. At the moment they are the main provider of websites to Students’ Unions in the UK. They currently provide their services to over 40 Students’ Unions from across the country.

One particular aspect of their service is the use of a data sharing agreement between the Students’ Union and the University, in which students have a single log in ID which grants them access to both their University account and their Union account. This will not only allow us to run our Student Elections from our own system rather than using the University’s (which has been the norm in the past), but will also allow the University to have access to the election module to hold Staff elections. With Universities starting to implement the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR), the use of data sharing between the University and the Union will allow for an easier production of this in the future.

With our current website contract running out on January 2nd 2013, we hope to have a basic level of our new website up and running in early January. We are currently in the process of discussing a data sharing agreement with the University to allow us to adopt the new system.

**Green Impact**

Continuing on from last year, the Students’ Union will again be participating in Green Impact award, an environmental and sustainability initiative run by the National Union of Students (NUS). The award involves evidencing various good-practice and initiatives that the Students’ Union implements, to show that sustainability and environmental issues are high on our agenda. We have recruited a small number of volunteers that will help us evidence the work that we currently do, and to help us introduce anything new that we need. Last year we received a Silver Award, and as a minimum goal for this year are aiming to be on par with this achievement.

**Charities**

In our Student elections earlier this year, a part-time Raise and Give (RaG) Officer was elected for the first time in the form of Eugeni Velinov. As part of our by-laws supporting our constitution, it is noted that the Union must elect 4 charities for us to focus our fundraising activities on. After discussions with his RaG committee, Eugeni brought the following charities to the Students’ Union’s Executive Committee for approval. They were: Worcester Snoezelen, New Hope Worcester, Acorns and Onside. All charities were approved by the committee.

**#demo2012**

With efforts focused on sending students to the national demo in London on 21st November, transport has been arranged. We have been able to secure funding of £200 from NUS for the transport, and have linked up with Worcester College of Technology as a cost-effective exercise to reduce the cost to students.

**StARS and VP Forum**

Since the last meeting, Sam has been busy recruiting and training the new StARs. This year we have trained more StARs than ever in three face-to-face sessions compared with the five sessions done last year. As a result, the amount of trained StARs has gone up by 23% so far this year. Sam hopes that this will increase with the introduction of online training to engage partner students, placement students, and students that were just too busy to attend training. By expanding how StARs can be trained, we hope to integrate as many students into the process to allow for a more successful system.

The first VP forum took place on 14/11/12, this forum is a new initiative whereby StARs are invited to question John Ryan and myself about the university and their student experience. The first forum was themed around The Hive and Anne Hannaford (Director of ILS) attended as a result. Students were able to air their concerns and discuss the facility and get feedback so they felt they were being listened too. Similar meetings were held last year with my predecessor and various guests; however these were not well attended. The forum was a huge success with 65 StARs attending which hopefully is an indicator that the StARs system is improving.

**#teamworc**

Following on from the branding on last year’s Varsity clothing, teamworc has been developed into a brand that can encompass all student activities, from Sports and Societies through to volunteering. With over 400 ‘likes’ on the #teamworc Facebook page, the brand is growing on a weekly basis, with many sports teams using the hash tag on game days. The introduction of #teamworc branded wristbands, which will be available from the SU shop shortly is the start of the merchandising that can be developed around the hash tag.

The idea behind the branding #teamworc is to unite all student activities under one brand, that all students can be proud of and feel a part of, whether their playing sport, organising shows, or spending their time volunteering.