**Student Council**

Minutes of a special meeting of Student Council held on Friday 25th September 2015

Student Councillors Present

Wesley Hudson (President), Lewis Arnold (Vice President Education), Hemaka Pathiranage (Vice President Student Activities), Claudia Calin (Non-UK Students’ Officer), Tim Brown (Student Council rep for SU academic societies), Matt Sargeant (Student Council rep for SU non-academic societies), Euan Morrison (Student Council rep for BUCS sports teams)

Absent

Alex Dowson (Student Council rep for non-BUCS sports clubs)

In attendance

Sophie Williams (Chief Executive), Ruth Christie (Membership Services Manager, note-taker)

Wesley welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the primary reason for calling the meeting was to consider proposals to change the make-up of Student Council. He asked for a volunteer to chair the meeting. Tim volunteered and was unanimously voted in as chair. The chair then invited Wesley to explain the background to the proposed changes.

Wesley said that last year, Student Council had places for 43 representatives. This made it too large to be efficient and effective and the proposal is to reduce the number of places to 24, including the full-time and part-time officers. He presented the proposal to Student Council and invited comments and questions.

Matt suggested that there should be a Student Council representative for the arts, particularly as the University Arts Network is likely to be established soon. Lewis pointed out that, as Vice President Student Activities, Hemaka has responsibility for representing students’ interests in relation to all kinds of activities, including arts activities. Wes explained that the role of Student Council is to hold all the elected officers to account.

The previous make-up of Student Council was outlined, to make it clear which positions it is proposed should be removed. This was as follows, with the positions highlighted being those it is suggested should be removed:

|  |
| --- |
| 1. President |
| 1. Vice President Education |
| 1. Vice President Student Activities |
| 1. Mature Students' Officer |
| 1. Non-UK Students' Officer |
| 1. RAG Officer |
| 1. Sustainability Officer |
| 1. Welfare Officer |
| 1. Women’s Officer |
| 1. Student Disability Officer |
| 1. LGBT Officer |
| 1. Ethnic Minority Officer |
| 1. LGBT students |
| 1. Mature students |
| 1. Non-UK students |
| 1. Postgraduate students |
| 1. RAG |
| 1. RAG |
| 1. Events and entertainment |
| 1. SU sports |
| 1. SU sports |
| 1. SU societies |
| 1. SU societies |
| 1. Community volunteering |
| 1. Community volunteering |
| 1. Institute of Education |
| 1. Institute of Health and Society |
| 1. Institute of Humanities and Creative Arts |
| 1. Institute of Science and the Environment |
| 1. Institute of Sport and Exercise Science |
| 1. Worcester Business School |
| 1. Black and minority ethnic students |
| 1. Students with a disability |
| 1. Sustainability issues |
| 1. Sustainability issues |
| 1. Part-time students |
| 1. Block placement students |
| 1. Commuting students |
| 1. Students living in St Johns halls of residence |
| 1. Students living in City campus halls of residence |
| 1. Students living in University-managed off-site accommodation |
| 1. Students living in private rented accommodation in Worcester |
| 1. Co-opted |
| 1. Co-opted |
| 1. Co-opted |
| 1. Co-opted |
| 1. City campus Rep (new role proposed for 2015-16) |

After some discussion, it was proposed that there should be a Student Council rep for students living in University-managed accommodation and another for students studying for Foundation Degrees/HND courses.

Voting was as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| To add a Student Council rep for foundation degree/HND students | For | Against | Abstain |
| Votes | 6 | 0 | 0 |

The proposal was therefore approved.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| To add a Student Council rep for students living in University-managed accommodation | For | Against | Abstain |
| Votes | 3 | 0 | 3 |

The chair used his casting vote for the proposal, which was approved.

The chair then asked Student Councillors to vote to adopt the proposed new make-up of Student Council, as outlined below:

|  |
| --- |
| 1. President |
| 1. Vice President Education |
| 1. Vice President Student Activities |
| 1. Non-UK Students’ Officer |
| 1. SU Society Rep (academic) |
| 1. SU Society Rep (non-academic) |
| 1. SU Sports Rep (BUCS sports) |
| 1. SU Sports Rep (non-BUCS sports) |
| 1. Ethnic Minority Officer |
| 1. LGBT Officer |
| 1. Mature Students’ Officer |
| 1. RAG Officer |
| 1. Student Disability Officer |
| 1. Sustainability Officer |
| 1. Welfare Officer |
| 1. Women’s Officer |
| 1. Institute of Education Rep |
| 1. Institute of Health and Society Rep |
| 1. Institute of Humanities and Creative Arts Rep |
| 1. Institute of Science and the Environment Rep |
| 1. Institute of Sport and Exercise Science Rep |
| 1. Worcester Business School Rep |
| 1. Postgraduate Rep |
| 1. City campus Rep |
| 1. Rep for students living in University-managed accommodation |
| 1. Rep for foundation degree/HND students |

Voting was as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| To adopt the proposed new make-up of Student Council | For | Against | Abstain |
| Votes | 6 | 0 | 0 |

The proposal was approved.

Approval of new student clubs/societies

Hemaka asked Student Council to approve a number of new student societies.

**African-Caribbean Society**

Hemaka explained that this society used to be the Ethnic Minority Society. Wes expressed concern that the new name might suggest that the society is too exclusive, but Hemaka assured Student Council that the constitution has not changed and any student may join.

At this stage, Matt had to leave, leaving 5 Student Councillors plus the chair.

The African-Caribbean Society was approved, with 5 votes for, none against and no abstentions.

**Debate Society**

Wes asked whether there might be potential problems in relation to external speakers being invited to the University. Student Council was assured that the SU has a form and a procedure which all clubs and societies need to follow if they plan to invite external speakers and this provides the required checks. If necessary, such requests would be referred to the University.

The Debate Society was approved, with 5 votes for, none against and no abstentions.

**Investment Banking Society**

Claudia asked what kind of activities this society is planning. Hemaka explained that the society plans to run in a similar way to Bright Futures (making links with employers and organising events which provide opportunities for students to meet and network with employers), but with a specific focus on investment banking.

The Investment Banking Society was approved, with 5 votes for, none against and no abstentions.

**Ten-Pin Bowling Society**

Wes declared a conflict of interest, as he lives with two of the members. He therefore abstained from the vote.

The Ten-Pin Bowling Society was approved, with 4 votes for, plus the Chair’s casting vote, none against and one abstention.

**Worc TV**

Hemaka explained that this society is likely to be made up mainly of students from the Institute of Humanities and Creative Arts. The aim is to provide students with experience of being involved with broadcasting, both in front of and behind the camera. Wes declared an interest.

Worc TV was approved, with 4 votes for, plus the Chair’s casting vote, none against and one abstention.

**Women’s Cricket**

Hemaka and Tim declared an interest in this application. This meant a vote could not be taken as quoracy could not be reached, so it was suggested that all Student Councillors should be asked to vote via email.

*Note: Subsequent to the meeting, it was acknowledged that Women’s Cricket’s constitution and budget were not yet ready for consideration, so this application will be considered at the next Student Council meeting.*

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Student Council was informed that the SU is required to hold an AGM annually, to which all students are invited. Wes is planning to invite the NUS President, Megan Dunn, to this year’s AGM, which is likely to be held in November. Student Council members were asked to consider reasons for students to come.

The function of the Board of Trustees was outlined and it was explained to Student Council that full-time officers will present Student Council’s decisions to the Board of Trustees and also to the University’s Board of Governors.

Student Council meetings for 2015-16

The next meeting will take place after the by-election and Student Council elections. Dates and locations of meetings for this academic year are as follows, with all meetings starting at 17:15:

Tuesday 27th October 2015 EEG020

Tuesday 1st December 2015 EEG020

Thursday 4th February 2016 EEG027

Tuesday 1st March 2016 EEG020

Thursday 7th April 2016 EEG027

Tuesday 3rd May 2016 EEG020