

**Student Council**

Tuesday 27th October 2015 from 17:15 – 19:15 in EEG020

Agenda

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 17:15 | Welcome and introductions |
|  | 17:25 | Apologies |
|  | 17:30 | Declarations of interest |
|  | 17:35 | Minutes of previous meeting held on Friday 25th September 2015 |
|  | 17:40 | Matters arising from the minutes |
|  | 17:45 | Update from Executive Committee (verbal – President) |
|  | 17:50 | Update from the Board of Trustees (verbal – President) |
|  | 18:00 | Officers’ reports – questions/comments |
|  | 18:10 | Student Charter – Student Council’s approval is sought for the revised version |
|  | 18:20 | Approval of new SU clubs/societies |
|  | 18:40 | Approval of RAG charities |
|  | 18:50 | Student Council vacancies |
|  | 19:00 | Any other business |

Date of the next Student Council meeting: Tuesday 1st December 2015 in EEG020 at 17:15

**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:

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| --- |
| 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.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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:

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| 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

Executive Officer Report to Student Council

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| Officer Name / Role: Wesley Hudson - President |
| Date of report: 27/10/15 |
| What work have you been undertaking towards your objectives since the last meeting? Please limit this to 5 items.   * Next week will be the Launch of my Don’t Rent Yet campaign, the booklet is still currently under production. * The accommodation department and I are trying to book space for this year’s Landlord fair in January. We are also looking into the effectiveness of Student Pad. * There has been significant progress in the development of WorcTV and Student Media. * Discussions are taking place in regards to promoting the Access to Learning Fund and how to apply for it. * I am starting to gather information on parking and ticket fines. |
| What progress have you made on actions you have been mandated by Student Council to carry out?  N/A |
| List up to 5 other duties of note have you been carrying out within your role and state how has this been benefitting students?   * I have been working closely with the University on developing some campaigns and awareness around Mental Health. Supporting students, particularly men, in feeling comfortable to discuss mental health issues. * I have been meeting with University Staff members in creating some opportunities for students to help support for the refugee crisis in Calais. Giving students more volunteering opportunities and a chance to learn about current affairs. * I have now moved my working space to behind the Welcome Desk to be more accessible to students. * Attended the Students Organising Sustainability launch event in Cornwall. This gave some guidelines for students on how to become ambassadors for sustainability. * I have been investigating disciplinary procedures at the University and how they need to be revised. |
| What are the 5 key tasks you aim to get done before the next meeting?   * Confirm the date and location of the Landlord Fair * Carry out the Don’t Rent Yet campaign and bring a copy of the booklet to the next meeting * Explore healthier and more accommodating food options on campus * Look into getting a Water Fountain at City Campus * Have a plan for a mental health campaign |

Executive Officer Report to Student Council

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| Officer Name / Role: Lewis Arnold- Vice President Education |
| Date of report: 22/10/15 |
| What work have you been undertaking towards your objectives since the last meeting? Please limit this to 5 items.   * Recruitment of StARs & institute reps (complete). * Planned the upcoming StAR training. * Planned monthly forum between Ins reps & myself. * SU @ home & SU on tour in order to interact with those students that are traditionally harder to engage (mature/city campus). |
| What progress have you made on actions you have been mandated by Student Council to carry out?  The position for foundation/Non degree student council rep was added to the by-elections. |
| List up to 5 other duties of note have you been carrying out within your role and state how has this been benefitting students?   * Prepared & submitted a report to SSWG regarding the UWSS: Qs relating to SU will now be included in the UWSS, similar to that in NSS (Q23). This will give the SU more feedback on students so that we can continue to enhance our services. * Prepared a report for LTSEC, with a motion to ELECT, rather than select ins reps. This makes reps more accountable to students & gives them a formal mandate to act on students behalf. * Discussed Worcester Weeks with UW staff & Wes in order to provide students with guidance & direction during the weeks, with the aim of making the weeks more enjoyable/beneficial. * Attended University meetings to ensure that they are student centred and student opinion is voiced (LTSEC/ACADEMIC BOARD/SSWG/BOG/TB). * Developed and promoted the SAP schemes so that students can work in partnership with staff and gain valuable employability skills. |
| What are the 5 key tasks you aim to get done before the next meeting?   * Successfully deliver the StAR training. * Submit the motion to elect ins reps to LTSEC * Begin planning my campaign to increase awareness of degree classification. * Formal review the relationship between TLI & the SU. * Address issues raised by ins reps at monthly forums at institute level meetings. |

Executive Officer Report to Student Council

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| Officer Name / Role: Hemaka Pathiranage, Vice President Student Activities |
| Date of report: 26/10/2015 |
| What work have you been undertaking towards your objectives since the last meeting? Please limit this to 5 items.   * Meeting all the Sports clubs and Societies – Doing 1 to 1 meeting to discuss yearly plan and the help SU can give to improve the Societies. Talking through the grants and how they have to spend them. * Board of Trustees meeting/ Board of Governors – Going through things I need help to promote our societies. And getting more academic societies. * Sports Development Board –To increase participation in performance teams, bringing extra coaching staff and more funding towards the societies. * Promotion on TV screens/ Promotion on #TeamWorc page – Talking with the university to promote our events that do during the year. Giving more help to all the societies to promote there events. More use of the #TeamWorc page to promote events or any other things that students do. * Open Days – More funding towards the societies and more volunteering towards our committee members. Also, to give prospective students a better experience before they join the university. They will find out what the SU and the societies give them to enjoy the university life. |
| What progress have you made on actions you have been mandated by Student Council to carry out?  Approvals of Sports and societies – Ten Pin Bowling, African Caribbean Society, Debate Society, Investment Banking Society and Worc TV  To Be approved in this Student Council – Ladies Cricket, Cosplay society, Deeper Life Campus Fellowship Society and English Literary Society |
| List up to 5 other duties of note have you been carrying out within your role and state how has this been benefitting students?   * Meeting with each sports club and societies/ #TeamWorc Committee meetings * Women in Sport * Recreation Sports * Monthly awards * Varsity |
| What are the 5 key tasks you aim to get done before the next meeting?   * Monthly awards for Sports clubs and societies – To encourage our sports clubs and societies to do more events during the year to show how well they do as a society. This will give other societies to think what different winning societies do to develop there society. * Varsity meeting with Gloucestershire/ meeting sports teams to get there opinion about varsity – With the reason meeting with University of Gloucestershire we are going to give students what kind of discipline we will take during the events this year. With the help of the university and Pro Vice-Chancellor Ross Renton we will be giving all the sports team chairpersons briefing about the discipline. * #TeamWorc Committee meetings – For the first time I’m going to do monthly meeting for all the sports and societies. Gives them to find out what other societies do during the year. So, they all help each other to improve the events. Join other societies to do events. Also, anything that they want to ask from me or from SU, this is the best place. I will also give some other tips to improve the society. * RAG Week/Movember – This year we are doing to RAG weeks. So, we can raise more money for our chosen charities. As soon as we get our RAG officer elected, I will be working towards it. During November I’m going to invite all the Sports clubs and Societies to join me to do a RAG Movember and raise money for our charities. * Women In Sports/ Recreation Sports – One of my key areas this year to focus on the students that not doing anything with SU. So, University and SU working together to increase participation through free sporting activities. That includes Yoga, Pilates, Zumba etc. Don’t forget that over 60% students in the University are Female students. With this Recreation sports we will be able to get more students to be a part of the SU. |

**Non-UK Officer report**

July – October 27th

**UKCISA Integration Summit**

The 2015 Warwick Integration Summit focused on:

* *the internationalisation of higher education*: Dr. Juliana Roth from Munich University gave a talk about how German universities struggle to bring international students as opposed to UK universities which have the advantage of providing English-taught programmes. Further there was an open discussion about why universities aim to be more international. Reasons such as the development of the global work market, the want for international publications and an increased mobility of both students and professors were discussed.
* *enhancing students’ global skills:* Dr. Helen Spencer-Oatey from University of Warwick presented her study about ‘What makes a global student?’. The main findings of her work highlighted that friendships and group work between home students and non-UK students increase both parties’ global skills.

\*Warwick created the 3Rs Tool/Cognitive Reflection that can be used by students who spend time studying abroad:

1. *Report*
2. *Reflect*
3. *Re-evaluate*

* *discussing what a global mindset means:* in one of the workshops*,* Abi Sharma from Queen’s Mary University suggested the need to clarify what a global mindset entails. We discussed that skills such as adaptability, resilience and tolerance can be developed whilst studying abroad. However, it is important that students are aware of all these abilities and that they emphasise them to employers.

*Abi suggested that students can use the STAR technique to evaluate their skills;* the STAR technique is also promoted by the Careers service at Worcester University.

Self-reflection and ideas I got for the SU and the Non-UK Officer (myself):

* promote studying abroad
* establish a ‘World Society’?
* use Eramus students to promote the Erasmus scheme in the University
* blog competitions focused on international experiences and/or global employability – *maybe get Bright Futures Society to get involved*.
* Sussex University has a week in which they celebrate diversity (called One World Sussex); similar to Go Green Week -> One World Worcester?

**Surveys**

* In the beginning of June, I ran an online survey that was shared on social media. My aim was to find out what non-UK students would like to see happening in the upcoming year and I thought it was an efficient way of reaching them given the fact that summer break had already started.
* The response rate wasn’t ideal as I’ve had roughly 40 responses, however I was pleased with the suggestions they made and those who did respond took it seriously.
* **Results**
* Most students said they would prefer monthly events.
* Suggestions for events: board games night; one-day trips; Easter/summer break party; international café.
* Language Cafes responses:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I like the idea. I would attend the courses. | 59.09% |
| –  I don't really like the idea; wouldn't attend the courses. | 22.73% |
| –  I like the idea and I would even be willing to teach. | 18.18% |

**Other matters**

* I took over the Worcester University International Students **Facebook group** - I often see posts of people who promote writing services or dissertation help services that are against the rule of academic integrity and originality. I deleted them all and removed the members and because this happened frequently I also decided to ask every new member is they’re part of the University or not.
* **Informal talks** with new students – I believe that during summer I maintained a good online presence and given the fact that both current and new students have already contacted me in regards to different matters, I thought it was a good approach.
* **International Induction Week** – I took part in the International Treasure Hunt and games night and met most of the new comers in their first week. In all these encounters, I tried to promote both my role and the Students’ Union’s role and I believe students are aware of their representatives. Following this week, I had plenty of students who got in touch with me for various issues they encountered in their first week and I managed to point them in the right direction.

**Planning (July) – The International Committee**

Ideally: at least 1 representative from each year of study; diverse body of students.

**Roles**

**Language Café Coordinator x2**: to organise the language cafes, liaise with the teachers and students, organise rooms, dates & times, ensure the cafes are run smoothly, take a record of attendance and gather feedback from both students and teachers.

**Secretary:** to take the minutes of each committee meeting, help with the promotion of activities and events.

**Event Organiser x3**: to plan and organise events, organise dates, time & location,

**Advertising & Promotion**: to actively promote events, create Facebook events, posters.

**Publicity Officer:** to write events’ or campaigns’ descriptions and promotion material.

**Creative Designer**: to design posters & any other promotion materials.

**International Committee recruiting & selection**

Following Freshers’ Week, I sent an email to advertise the committee and ask for volunteers. Our first meeting took place on the 9th of October and that is when the 2015/2016 committee was formed. These are the members and their respective roles:

Language café Coordinators: Andreea Sabau, Elena Beatrice Varhanyovski.

Event Organisers: Daria Nowak, Maria Tammiste

Secretary: Aleksandra Tsvetanova

Publicity Officer: Vito Pauletic

Creative Designer: Alex

Advertising & Promotion Officers: Anca Constantin, Martin Salvato, Huy Quoc Pham

Incoming & Exchange Students representatives: Christophe Berton, Marcus Strand.

UoW International Office representative: Diana Iusco

These representatives are

* from all years of study
* coming from different countries
* enrolled on different programmes, including on Erasmus exchange programmes.

As a team we have planned a series of events for this year. Following the surveys I conducted in June, we will try to organise at least an event per month.

**October events:**

**MODERN LANGUAGES TALK –22nd of October**, Binyon Building

In the summer I was contacted by Isabelle Schafer, a lecturer in Modern Languages at the University. She had planned a talk about pursuing a PGCE in teaching modern languages and she thought this would be of interest to International students. I liked the idea she put forward and along with my committee, we decided to promote the event and help her spread the word.

**International Pub Crawl – 23rd of October**

Issues with this event were amended.