

Student Council Minutes

Tuesday 13th February 2018 (17:15-19:15) EEG021

Agenda

1.	Welcome and introductions	2 min
2.	Apologies	2 min
3.	Declarations of interest	2 min
4.	Minutes of previous meeting	2 min
5.	Matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student Disability Officer 	5 min
Approval Items		
6.	Approval of New Clubs and Societies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - African and Caribbean Society - Ink! Creative Society - The Autistic Spectrum and Amateur Philosophers Society 	15 min
7.	Approval of Student Council Motion Proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy 2017-18_003. Mental Health Service for PGR students 	10 min
Reporting Items		
8.	Office for Students Consultation Submission	5 min
9.	Update from Executive Committee	5 min
10.	Update from the Board of Trustees	5 min
11.	Officers' Reports – questions/comments	10 min
12.	Elections Committee Update and Leadership Elections Update	5 min
13.	Review of ASM	10 min
14.	Students' Union 'Out and About'	5 min
15.	PTO Elections Timings	5 min
A.O.B		
16.	Any other business	

Attendance

Student Councillors present:

Postgraduate Rep	Kathryn Spicksley	KS
Institute of Health & Society Rep	Stuart Wiggins	SWig
BAME Officer	Lexian Porter	LP
Welfare Officer	Tapiwa Makaka	TM
LGBT+ Officer	Jordanne Wozencroft	JW
Mature Students Officer	Lou Le Page	LLP
Women's Officer	Robyn Platt	RP
President	Jade Haley	JH

Vice President Student Activities
 Vice President Education

Sophie Glenny
 Euan Morrison

SG
 EM

Also in attendance:

Student Engagement Manager
 Student Voice Assistant (minute-taking)

Tim Hewes-Belton
 Jodie Stilgoe

THB
 JS

Apologies Received:

Chief Executive
 BUCS Clubs Rep
 Non BUCS Clubs Rep
 Worcester Business School Rep
 Institute of Humanities Rep

Sophie Williams
 Alex Gardener
 Alex Thomas
 Todd Stephens
 Rhianna Levi

SWil
 AG
 AT
 TS
 RL

Not Present:

Sustainability Officer
 International Students' Officer
 Institute of Sport and Exercise Science Rep
 General Interest Societies Rep

Connor Egan
 Halide Aydin
 Hannah Barnett
 Leanne Bowers

CE
 HA
 HB
 LB

Minutes

1.	Welcome and introductions
	EM welcomed everyone to Student Council.
2.	Apologies
	Apologies were received from Alex Gardener (BUCS Clubs Rep), Alex Thomas (Non BUCS Clubs Rep), Todd Stephens (Worcester Business School Rep), Rhianna Levi (Institute of Humanities Rep) and Sophie Williams (Chief Executive).
3.	Declarations of interest
	EM asked those present if there were any declarations of interest for any agenda items. LP and TM declared that they proposed the African and Caribbean Society, SWig declared that he proposed The Autistic Spectrum and Amateur Philosophers Society, and KS declared that she is the policy proposer for the Policy 2017-18_003. Mental Health Service for PGR students' motion.
4.	Minutes of previous meeting
	The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
5.	Matters arising 5.1 Student Disability Officer JH updated Council that Fran Storey has resigned from her position as Student Disability Officer. JH informed Councillors that students can be co-opted onto Council for any of the vacant positions, including the position of Student Disability Officer. Students can request a co-option application form from the Students' Union. 5.2 Action Points

	Action 01 – JH to take up Motorcycle Parking Motion with Facilities and Estates Department	JH reported that the Director of Estates and Facilities, Mark Hughes, has confirmed that he is looking into this. However, she has received no further update.
	Action 02 – JH to send Executive Committee minutes to Councillors	JH sent the minutes to all Councillors.
	Action 03 – Everyone to give ideas to FS around disability month	See agenda item 5.1
	Action 04 – JH to invite Councillors and Officers to SU staff coffee mornings	JH invited all Councillors to attend SU staff coffee mornings. She reminded Councillors that this is an informal and optional meeting where Councillors and SU staff can network.
	Action 05 – Everyone to let LLP know any ideas about society retention and ways to recruit new members into a society	Completed
	Action 06 – Everyone to read OfS document by next Student Council	Everyone has read the OfS document.
	Action 07 – Everyone to think about what would make students want to attend/contribute to ASM and feedback to SW	The ASM took place on Thursday 1 st February. See Agenda item 13.
	Action 08 – JS to update website with PTO/FTO/Councillor email addresses following their permission	JS sent out an email asking for permission to use Councillors' emails on a public platform and updated WSU's website accordingly.
	Action 09 – THB to train new councillors	THB provided a training session before this meeting where one new councillor attended.

Approval Items

6. **Approval of New Clubs and Societies**
6.1 – African and Caribbean Society
 LP explained that this society is a celebration of Afro-ethnicity. It would strive to enrich the academic and social experience of its members, whilst upholding a strong sense of community and inclusiveness. It would be open to students from all backgrounds although with a focus on African and Caribbean culture.

	<p><u>Vote to approve African and Caribbean Society</u> For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 The African and Caribbean Society was approved</p> <p>6.2 – Ink! Creative Society SG read out the Society’s application form. The aim of the society is to create an art-focused environment for both art students and students who are majoring in other subjects. It aims to create an outlet for inspiration and to bring art education outside of art majors. This would be a new academic society.</p> <p><u>Vote to approve Ink! Creative Society</u> For: 10 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 The Ink! Creative Society was approved</p> <p>6.3 – The Autistic Spectrum and Amateur Philosophers Society SWig explained that this Society would bring together those with an Autistic Spectrum condition, academics, activists, philanthropists and like-minded individuals to debate on sociological and charitable issues and action solutions. The society would exhibit the abilities of individuals with Autistic Spectrum conditions. JH asked about the relevance for “Autistic Spectrum” being combined with “Amateur Philosophers”. SWig explained that if the Society only concentrated on Autism, it would only attract autistic people. The society’s main aim is for like-minded people tackling and solving sociological and charitable issues.</p> <p><u>Vote to approve The Autistic Spectrum and Amateur Philosophers Society</u> For: 9 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 The Autistic Spectrum and Amateur Philosophers Society was approved</p>		
7.	<p>Approval of Student Council Motion Proposals</p> <p>Policy 2017-18_003. Mental Health Service for PGR students KS explained that the research school have put in a bid for Catalyst funding. The aim of the funding would be to improve support for graduate research students in terms of mental health.</p> <p>Issues specific to postgraduates include independent lone-working, time-management, high levels of responsibility and managing supervisory teams. Another key issue is working with vulnerable groups. For example, in the Institute of Health and Society, many postgraduates research difficult subject areas such as teen suicide, dementia and mental health. With regards to the ‘Student Council Resolves to Take the Following Action’ section of the motion, JH made the following comments:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1906 1385 2022"> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1906 836 2022"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Improve visual signposting to mental health services for PGR/all students at City Campus” </td><td data-bbox="836 1906 1385 2022"> JH and Councillors agreed with this bullet point. </td></tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Improve visual signposting to mental health services for PGR/all students at City Campus” 	JH and Councillors agreed with this bullet point.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Improve visual signposting to mental health services for PGR/all students at City Campus” 	JH and Councillors agreed with this bullet point.		

		THB added that Kate Gynn, Academic and Welfare Advisor, holds drop in sessions at City Campus every Thursday afternoon.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “FTOs, PTOs and SU staff to attend a short training session which will aim to highlight the specific needs of PGR students” 	JH requested that the wording should change from ‘FTOs, PTOs and SU staff’ to ‘key staff and officers’. Councillors and KS agreed with JH’s request.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Explore ways in which the SU website could facilitate peer-to-peer mentoring and/or an online community, specifically for PGR students” 	JH explained that the SU does not have the expertise or capacity to facilitate PGR mentoring. KS explained that this bullet point is something the research school should be facilitating.
<p>Councillors agreed on these amendments to the motion. Council then voted on the amended motion.</p> <p>Vote to approve Policy 2017-18_003. Mental Health Service for PGR students Motion For: 9 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 Policy 2017-18_003. Mental Health Service for PGR students (amended) motion was approved</p>		

Reporting Items

8.	Office for Students Consultation Submission
	<p>All Councillors received the Office for Students (OfS) consultation document and the Students’ Union’s response to this document prior to February’s meeting. THB gave an overview of the OfS, explaining that it will change the regulatory framework of the Higher Education sector completely. All University providers will subscribe to the OfS’s aims and regulations. JH informed Councillors that the University submitted a separate response to WSU.</p> <p>Action 01: JH to email Councillors the University’s response to the OfS consultation</p> <p>EM asked if anyone had any questions about WSU’s response or about the OfS in general, but none were received</p>
9.	Update from Executive Committee
	<p>Executive Committee was held a week before Student Council. JH informed Councillors that the meeting included an update from PTOs about upcoming events and campaigns they are working. An update about WSU’s upcoming events was also given at this meeting. WSU’s upcoming events include the Leadership Elections and Celebration Week (the Union Awards and the Colours Ball).</p> <p>Students can currently nominate staff and lecturers via this link for the Union Awards: Students’ Choice. JH explained that, because WSU is a charity, it does not aim to make a profit through ticket sales at these awards. However, WSU does need to breakeven with the costs involved in putting on these events. JH went on to explain that students could use the REACH programme as a way of buying tickets for these events. Students’ REACH</p>

	<p>accounts can be loaded with credit to spend in the online shop (www.worcester-reach.co.uk)</p> <p>All first year undergraduates, full-time, home and EU students paying full fees at the University of Worcester and joining the University in 2017 are eligible to receive £100 to spend on their REACH account in the 2017/18 academic year. Students in other years (who are full-time EU/home undergraduate students, enrolled in a level 4 or above course, paying full fees to the University of Worcester) are eligible to receive £50 to spend on their REACH account in the 2017/18 academic year.</p> <p>Action 02: (everyone) to promote the Union Awards: Students’ Choice and Celebration Week to students</p>		
10.	Update from the Board of Trustees		
	<p>JH explained that this meeting had a particular focus on key performance indicators (KPIs) and long-term goals. WSU submitted its budget proposal for the next academic year and the Board also discussed WSU’s affiliation to NUS. JH explained that every Union that is affiliated to NUS pays an affiliation fee (forms a percentage of the block grant). However, because the NUS is no longer being recognised as a charity, the “affiliation” is changing to a grant. WSU are currently waiting for more information about this. THB clarified that the NUS does not qualify for charitable status because of the restrictions on charities political activity and NUS’s role as a lobbying organisation, as well as its significant commercial operations.</p>		
11.	Officers’ reports – questions/comments		
	Officer	Question	Response/Additional Comments
	JH	No questions received	No additional comments
	EM	No questions received	EM updated Councillors about the Course Rep Conference. This event saw 70 students attend and EM has received positive feedback about the development and Institute sessions. EM commented on the panel debate, highlighting that students asked stimulating and interesting questions. He explained that the SU have sent out a feedback survey to all Reps who attended the event as WSU are looking to improve the event for next year.
	SG	No questions received	No additional comments
	JW	No questions received	It is currently LGBT+ History Month. JW and the LGBT+ society are hosting a number of events throughout February 2018 to celebrate LGBT+ History Month. Events include LGBT+ debate, LGBT+ and Loco Show Co. Lip Sync, Film Night, Clothes Donation Rainbow, Art Collections and LGBT+ stalls. For an extensive list of events, visit https://www.worcsu.com/events/6013/848/

	LP	No questions received	No additional comments
	CE	No questions received	No additional comments
	RP	No questions received	No additional comments
	LLP	No questions received	No additional comments
	TM	No questions received	No additional comments
	HA	No report was received from HA	No report was received from HA
12.	Elections Committee Update and Leadership Elections Update		
	<p>THB reminded Councillors that the Leadership Elections are coming up, and informed every one of the key dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 19th February 09:00 – nominations open • Thursday 1st March midday – nominations close • Tuesday 6th March 14:15 – voting opens • Friday 9th March 14:15 – voting closes • Friday 9th March 19:00 – Results Night in the Hangar <p>Action 03: (everyone) to share WSU Elections videos on official social media platforms: https://www.facebook.com/worcestersu/videos/1745666798789190/</p>		
13.	Review of All Student Meeting (ASM)		
	<p>EM explained that there is a national vocalisation and engagement issue with students. This issue was evidenced at the ASM when quorum was not met. EM asked Councillors if they had any comments and/or feedback about the ASM.</p> <p>SWig suggested that the ASM should be reframed/rebranded. He explained that most students do not understand the consequences of not coming to the ASM because they do not wholly understand what an ASM is.</p> <p>EM suggested that the ASM could form a part of next year's Course Rep Conference, as that event saw good student engagement. LP raised the concern that lectures did not know about the Course Rep Conference until after the registration deadline. THB explained that all staff receive internal weekly communications newsletters. Details about the Conference was published on the newsletter well in advance of the event for all staff to see. Therefore, the information is provided but it is just not always accessed.</p> <p>EM and JH explained that they delivered a presentation on Communications at the Academic Board of Governors. As part of their research for this presentation, they discovered that the best events are when both the University and the Union collaborate and work together. For example, EM is currently involved in delivering presentations on the</p>		

	<p>NSS in collaboration with Lesley Spiers (from the Institute of Humanities). Due to this collaboration, the NSS completion rate in Humanities is vastly higher than other Institutes. LP informed WSU that she could not access the CES because she is on a joint honours course.</p> <p>Action 04: EM to report to Carolyn Nisbet about LP not being able to access CES</p>
14.	Students' Union 'Out and About'
	<p>EM updated Councillors that the name "Out and About" is controversial as it causes City Campus students to feel isolated from St John's Campus. The Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee (LTSEC) have requested that WSU should change this name due to feedback received from City Campus staff and students. Student Council unanimously agreed to the removal of the Out and About brand from SU promotional events, with immediate effect.</p>
15.	PTO Elections Timings
	<p>This Agenda item was requested by LP after the issue was raised in the Executive Committee. LP explained that PTO election timings should happen much earlier in the calendar year (e.g. in the month of May) so that PTOs can better prepare themselves for the upcoming academic year. EM explained that PTOs used to be elected alongside FTOs but this overshadowed FTO campaigns, where students are campaigning for a full-time paid job. PTO positions must be available for first year students (who all start in September), and so having an election in May would, most likely, not be feasible. Additionally, the Campus would be very quiet around May due to students heading back home after their end of year exams and assessments. He highlighted that October is the earliest possible time for elections to take place in the first semester due to Welcome Week and the arrival of students. It would be possible to move the elections back to the main elections.</p> <p>THB clarified that the Governance Review will review the current Officer roles and the current timings of elections. It is hoped that the final proposals for change will go to Student Council early in the first semester of 2018-19. Student Council will be involved in the consultation process.</p>
A.O.B	
16.	Any other business
	<p>SWig fed back that Aramark have a minimum spend before they will accept a card payment. He believes that this is unfair and unnecessary.</p> <p>Action 05: EM to arrange a preliminary meeting with Aramark to discuss this, and feedback their response to SWig</p>

Action Points

Action 01: JH to email Councillors the University's response to the OfS consultation document

Action 02: (everyone) to promote the Union Awards: Students' Choice and Celebration Week to students

Action 03: (everyone) to share WSU Elections videos and promotional material on official social media platforms: <https://www.facebook.com/worcestersu/videos/1745666798789190/>

Action 04: EM to report to Carolyn Nisbet about LP not being able to access CES

Action 05: EM to arrange a preliminary meeting with Aramark to discuss their minimum spend for card payments and then feedback the response to SWig