

# Student Council Minutes

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018, 13:00-15:00 EE1060

## Agenda

1.	Welcome and introductions
2.	Apologies
3.	Declarations of interest
4.	Minutes of previous meeting
5.	Matters arising
<b>Approval Items</b>	
6.	Approval of Student Charter
7.	Process for approval of Clubs and Societies over Summer
<b>Reporting Items</b>	
8.	Update from Executive Committee
9.	Update from the Board of Trustees
10.	Update from NUS Conference
11.	Update on Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varsity</li> <li>• Celebration Week</li> </ul>
12.	Officers' reports – questions/comments
<b>Information Items</b>	
13.	NUS Poverty Commission
14.	New Academic Structure
15.	Governance Review
16.	Policy Booklet
17.	"Malebox" (AG)
18.	Formal Acknowledgement of 2017-18 Councillors
<b>Any other Business</b>	
19.	Any other business

## Attendance

### Student Councillors present:

BUCS Clubs Rep	Alex Gardener	AG
Postgraduate Rep	Kathryn Spicksley	KS
LGBT+ Officer	Jordanne Wozencroft	JW
Mature Students' Officer	Lou Le Page	LLP
Women's Officer	Robyn Platt	RP
President	Jade Haley	JH
Vice President Education	Euan Morrison	EM
Vice President Student Activities	Sophie Glennly	SG

### Also in attendance:

Student Engagement Manager	Tim Hewes-Belton	THB
Student Voice Assistant (minute-taking)	Jodie Stilgoe	JS

### Apologies Received:

Chief Executive	Sophie Williams	SW
President Elect 18/19	Lucy Conn	LC
Vice President Student Activities Elect 18/19	Harrison Jarrett	HJ
Worcester Business School Rep	Todd Stephens	TS
International Students' Officer	Halide Aydin	HA
Welfare Officer	Tapiwa Makaka	TM
Institute of Humanities Rep	Rhianna Levi	RL
Institute of Education Rep	Nicki Le Page	NLP
Sustainability Officer	Connor Egan	CE

### Not Present:

BAME Officer	Lexian Porter	LP
Non BUCS Clubs Rep	Alex Thomas	AT
Institute of Sport and Exercise Science Rep	Hannah Barnett	HB
General Interest Societies Rep	Leanne Bowers	LB

## Minutes

1.	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>EM welcomed everyone to the last Student Council of the 2017/18 academic year. EM informed Council that they were not quorate and therefore would be unable to vote on approval items.</p>
2.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Sophie Williams (Chief Executive), Lucy Conn (President Elect 18/19), Harrison Jarrett (Vice President Student Activities Elect 18/19), Todd Stephens (Worcester Business School Rep), Halide Aydin (International Students' Officer), Tapiwa Makaka (Welfare Officer), Rhianna Levi (Institute of Humanities Rep), Nicki Le Page (Institute of Education Rep), and Connor Egan (Sustainability Officer).</p>
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b></p>

	EM asked those present if there were any declarations of interest for any agenda items. Councillors present confirmed that there were no declarations of interest.	
4	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	
	The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	
5	<b>Matters arising</b>	
	<b>Action 01: EM to discuss minimum spend for card payments with Aramark</b>	EM contacted Malcolm Harding, General Manager for Aramark, who explained that he would review the policy with the Finance Team. EM will continue to update Council.
	<b>Action 02: JH to email Councillors who were not in attendance at Council to vote electronically for Nicki Le Page's co-option application</b>	Councillors voted electronically and Nicki Le Page was co-opted onto Council as Institute of Education Rep.
	<b>Action 03: JH to liaise with Chris Greaves to see how many LGBT+ cocktails were sold during LGBT+ month</b>	55 rainbow cocktails were sold during LGBT+ month, which raised a total of £27.50 for the Albert Kennedy Trust.
	<b>Action 04: Councillors to email JH their opinions on NUS Officer Elections manifestos by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Councillors emailed JH their opinions regarding the NUS Officer Elections manifestos. See Agenda Item 10.
	<b>Action 05: EM to continue to update Council on council tax eligibility</b>	EM explained that NUS will be receiving legal advice on how Students' Unions should approach this matter. Council agreed that it would be beneficial to wait to hear from NUS before WSU proceeds any further.
	<b>Action 06: JH to email Councillors about their preferences for the date of the next Student Council</b>	Action completed.
<b>Approval Items</b>		
6	<b>Approval of Student Charter</b>	
	THB explained that the Student Charter sets out the general principles of the partnership between students, the University and the Students' Union. It applies to all registered students of the University. Student Charters are designed to provide 'information for students when they are starting a course – and during the course – so they know what they can expect and what is expected of them.' The Student Council reviews and approves the Charter on an annual basis.	

	<p>THB noted that last year Council wanted to make changes but had missed the deadline to do so. A councillor last year felt that the document did not account for mature or postgraduate students and, instead, focused on undergraduates.</p> <p><b>Action 01: Include an introductory sentence in the Charter including explicit reference to both undergraduate and postgraduate students</b></p> <p>KS explained that there are currently no PGR documents that specifically states expected contact hours for research students. She therefore suggested that the Charter could include clear rules for expected contact hours for research students. The Charter should also qualify the expectation of meetings. Council agreed that stating contact hours might be too detailed an item to include within the Charter. Instead of adding this onto the Charter, having structured and detailed documents for research students might be something that KS might want to lobby the University for. THB suggested arranging a preliminary meeting with EM, LC and KS to discuss the issue further.</p> <p><b>Action 02: THB, EM and LC to meet with KS to discuss how they can move forward with the raised PGR issue.</b></p> <p>Following the name change from StAR to Course Rep, Council agreed that the Charter would need to be edited to include the title Course Rep.</p> <p><b>Action 03: THB to change 'StAR' to 'Course Rep' in the Charter</b></p> <p><b>Action 04: THB to change the WSU logo on the Charter</b></p> <p><b>Action 05: THB to remove the word 'endeavour' from the Charter</b></p> <p><b>Action 06: JH, EM and THB to meet to discuss the Student Charter by the beginning of the w/c 7<sup>th</sup> May to make the appropriate changes as suggested by Council. The amended document should then be sent to all councillors for approval.</b></p>
7	<p>Process for approval of Clubs and Societies over Summer</p>
	<p>JH explained that unless Councillors are final year students, they would hold their position of Councillor until October 2018. He explained that Societies and Clubs would be approved electronically over Summer. Councillors were asked to keep an eye on their emails over the next few months as this is typically a popular time for applications for new Societies and Clubs.</p>
<p><b>Reporting Items</b></p>	
8	<p>Update from Executive Committee</p>
	<p>JH informed Council that there has not been a meeting since the last update.</p>
9	<p>Update from the Board of Trustees</p>
	<p>JH informed Council that there has not been a meeting since the last update. EM added that the Students' Union is currently recruiting for two Student Trustees.</p>
10	<p>Update from NUS Conference</p>
	<p>EM explained the key motions at the Conference. In the Priority Zone, motions included the Student Poverty Commission and motions around Student Finance.</p>

	<p>In the Education Zone, motions included tackling the Black Attainment Gap, high course costs and hidden costs, postgraduate tuition fees, funding, and the loans system. In the Welfare Zone, motions included mental health because, nationally, Universities want to put more funding into this. Other motions included single use plastics, refugees, and scholarships.</p> <p>JH explained that Shakira was re-elected as NUS President with 50.9% of vote. JH explained that there were 1000 delegates in attendance but only 690 voted in the NUS President Election. Amatey was re-elected as NUS's Vice President (Higher Education) with 68% of the vote. Ali Milani was re-elected as NUS's Vice President (Union Development) with 59.3% of the vote. Crosson Tory was elected as NUS's Vice President (Welfare). Zamzam Ibrahim was elected as NUS's Vice President (Society and Citizenship).</p> <p>EM also explained that students occupied the stage in protest as time constraints meant that motions on student sex work and abortion rights in Northern Ireland were not heard. Due to a high volume of procedural motions being put forward during the Welfare Zone, it left very little time to discuss real issues Higher Education and Further Education students were facing at their Institutions. In total, only 1 motion was passed for the Welfare Zone, and this was deemed unacceptable by a large number of students who occupied the stage in protest. It delayed conference floor time and, as a result, two of the election counts took place long after conference finished.</p>								
11	<b>Update on Events</b>								
	<p><b>11.1 Varsity</b>          The overall score for this year's Varsity was 14-13 to Gloucestershire. There were a few new events such as table tennis, climbing and athletics. JH ran the 'It Takes Balls To Talk' campaign during the Arena Day. This is a national campaign set up to try and encourage male athletes to discuss their mental health. It seemed to be successful in its aim to engage students, giving out 500 promotional cards and having 200 meaningful conversations with students.</p> <p><b>11.2 Celebration Week</b>          The Union Awards will be taking place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May and the Colours Ball will be taking place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Tickets for these two events will be going off sale on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Councillors were encouraged to inform students about these events.</p>								
12	<b>Officers' reports – questions/comments</b>								
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="288 1720 427 1765">Officer</th> <th data-bbox="427 1720 847 1765">Questions</th> <th data-bbox="847 1720 1350 1765">Response/Additional Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 1765 427 2002">JH</td> <td data-bbox="427 1765 847 2002">LLP asked where she could get copies of the WHPH magazine. JH informed her that they are dotted around the SU on tables and at the Welcome Desk.</td> <td data-bbox="847 1765 1350 2002">There will be a RAG Race Day event on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a BBQ on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May for Dissertation celebrations.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Officer	Questions	Response/Additional Comments	JH	LLP asked where she could get copies of the WHPH magazine. JH informed her that they are dotted around the SU on tables and at the Welcome Desk.	There will be a RAG Race Day event on Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May. There will be a BBQ on Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May for Dissertation celebrations.		
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<b>EM</b>	No questions received	EM explained that the COP is currently going through consultations and will be taken to LTSEC for approval in future weeks.
<b>SG</b>	No questions received	No additional comments
<b>JW</b>	No questions received	JW talked about the <u>Transgender Education and Support Programme</u> . This programme is designed to enhance the knowledge of students in relation to gender, transgender and transphobia.
<b>LP</b>	No questions received	No additional comments
<b>CE</b>	No questions received	JH explained on CE's behalf that the SU will be serving lemon and lime and mojito flavoured green slushies in The Hangar. The Hangar will now also be using biodegradable straws.
<b>RP</b>	No questions received	No additional comments
<b>LLP</b>	No questions received	No additional comments
<b>TM</b>	KS asked if the Crafternoon event should use compostable cups rather than plastic cups. JH explained on TM's behalf that the cups had already been ordered for Crafternoon. However, students will be encouraged to recycle and, moving forward, plastic cups will not be used for similar events again.	JH explained on TM's behalf that she will be holding a Crafternoon on Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May. There will also be a Bubble wrap popping session on Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May.
<b>HA</b>	No questions received	No additional comments

### Information Items

<b>13</b>	<b>NUS Poverty Commission</b>
	<p>JH explained that 9 Students' Unions took part in forming NUS's research, including Worcester. The Poverty Commission will feed into the upcoming review of the funding of post 16 education. The report is detailed in its analysis and THB explained that it will form a key piece of evidence in the national effort to lobby for a more equitable funding system.</p> <p><b>Action 07: JH to circulate the Poverty Commission report to Councillors and to send them the press release that NUS submitted for the report.</b></p>
<b>14</b>	<b>New Academic Structure</b>
	EM explained a proposal for new University structure, to be implemented in the new academic year 2018/19 is currently out for consultation. Rather than being

	<p>divided into 7 Institutes, the proposal is to have 9 schools clustered into 3 colleges. In each school there will be a number of different departments. EM explained that schools will still very much work and function like the Institutes do now. The restructuring is part of the University's gradual drive to try and make things consistent across the University. EM added that consistency is something that the SU supports, especially in the Academic Rep System.</p> <p>EM asked Councillors for their initial thoughts on the new academic structure. JW noted that the change will not really have any impact on students. Councillors were surprised that Psychology was no longer sitting under Health. LLP asked EM about what the restructuring would mean for Joint Honours students, and EM explained that he does not envisage it changing any more than it is now.</p> <p>KS expressed concerns that Education now sits with Humanities and Arts as there seemed to be little relevance. KS also noted that rebranding the University to have 'school' and 'college' labels sounds as though the University is trying to match elite languages found in Universities such as Oxford or Durham. Therefore, because of the elite language, Worcester might not be as accessible to students in the future.</p>
15	<b>Governance Review</b>
	<p>JH explained that the SU is currently organising focus groups from different student demographic groups to feed into the governance review research. By September 2018, the SU are hoping to present Council with a proposal.</p>
16	<b>Policy Booklet</b>
	<p>Past policies, which have been approved by the SU, are currently listed on the SU website. Looking to the future, the SU would like to create a policy booklet that outlines past policies.</p>
17	<b>"Malebox" (AG)</b>
	<p>AG explained that, as part of his dissertation, he conducted research into how men see themselves in a 'masculine' environment and the struggles that they might face whilst trying to fit into that 'masculine' stereotype. He explained that women would also experience pressures of University life and fitting into a gender stereotype. Therefore, he suggested implementing a Male Box / FeMale Box (playing on the word 'mailbox') in which a few mailboxes could be dotted around campuses. Students would be able to put notes into these boxes about any concerns that might lead to stress or poor mental health. A designated member of staff would look at the notes and get back to the student with advice.</p> <p>Council noted that the student would want to know who will be reading their note and so the SU would need to ensure that they include a disclosure around this. For example, if the designated SU staff member could not give an answer, then the student should be disclosed to the fact that their note might be passed on to another member of staff with appropriate knowledge.</p>

	<p>Council also agreed that the mailboxes should just be called mailboxes and not reference gender to ensure it is inclusive and accessible to all students.</p> <p><b>Action 08: JH to set a meeting with herself, AG and Kate Gynn (Academic and Welfare Advisor) to have a discussion around the implementation of mailboxes</b></p>
18	<b>Formal Acknowledgement of 2017-18 Councillors</b>
	On behalf of Student Council, EM gave thanks to all Councillors for their dedication, hard work and services over the last academic year.
<b>Any other Business</b>	
19	<b>Any other business</b>
	Councillors present did not have any further points of discussion. EM thanked all Councillors for attending and closed the meeting at 15:00.

### Action Points

**Action 01: Include an introductory sentence in the Charter including explicit reference to both undergraduate and postgraduate students**

**Action 02: THB, EM and LC to meet with KS to discuss how they can move forward with the raised PGR issue.**

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