Student Council Agenda

# Thursday 27th September, 11:00-12:00, BB074

**Agenda**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Welcome and introductions |
|  | Apologies |
|  | Declarations of interest |
|  | Minutes of previous meeting |
|  | Matters arising |
| Approval Items | |
|  | Approval of **2018-19\_001: People’s Vote** |
| Any other Business | |
|  | Any other business |
|  | Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th October, 17:15, TBC |

# Attendance

**Student Councillors present:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SU Society Rep (Academic) | Kayleigh-Georgie Cooper | KGC |
| BAME Officer | Lexi Porter | LP |
| Sustainability Officer | Connor Egan | CE |
| President | Lucy Conn | LC |
| Vice President Education (Chair) | Euan Morrison | EM |
| Vice President Student Activities | Harrison Jarrett | HJ |

**Also in attendance:**

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

**Apologies Received:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Mature Students’ Officer | Lou Le Page | LLP |
| Women’s Officer | Robyn Platt | RP |
| Postgraduate Rep | Katie Spicksley | KS |
| Welfare Officer | Tapiwa Makaka | TM |
| SU Sports Rep (BUCS Sport) | Chloe-May Barton | CMB |
| SU Sports Rep (Non BUCS Sport) | Olivia Clifford | OC |

**Not Present:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SU Society Rep (General Interest) | | Ellie Siviter | ES |
| International Students’ Officer | | Halide Aydin | HA |
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|  | |  |  |
|  | Welcome and introductions | | | |
|  | EM welcomed everyone to Council. | | | |
|  | Apologies | | | |
|  | Apologies were received from Lou Le Page (Mature Students’ Officer), Robyn Platt (Women’s Officer), Katie Spicksley (Postgraduate Rep), Tapiwa Makaka (Welfare Officer), Chloe-May Barton (SU Sports Rep BUCS Sports), and Olivia Clifford (SU Sports Rep Non-BUCS Sport). | | | |
|  | Declarations of interest | | | |
|  | EM asked those present if there were any declarations of interest for any agenda items. EM declared that he is the policy proposer and LC declared that she is the policy seconder. Therefore, EM and LC would abstain from voting on **2018-19\_001: People’s Vote** | | | |
|  | Minutes of previous meeting | | | |
|  | The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. | | | |
|  | Matters arising | | | |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Action 01: Include an introductory sentence in the Charter including explicit reference to both undergraduate and postgraduate students** | EM explained that the Student Charter sets out the general principles of the partnership between students, the University and the Students’ Union. The Student Council reviews and approves the Charter on an annual basis. EM explained that several changes were made to the Charter including merging it with the Feedback Charter, to which Council approved.  **Action 01: JS to send out Student Charter to Student Council before the next meeting on 18 October.**  EM confirmed that PG students are clearly referenced in the new Charter. | | **Action 02: THB, EM and LC to meet with KS to discuss how they can move forward with the raised PGR issue** | THB, EM and LC met with KS to discuss PGR issue. | | **Action 03: THB to change ‘StAR’ to ‘Course Rep’ in the Charter** | THB made this amendment to the Charter | | **Action 04: THB to change the WSU Logo on the Charter** | THB made this amendment to the Charter | | **Action 05: THB to remove the word ‘endeavour’ from the Charter** | THB made this amendment to the Charter | | **Action 06: JH, EM and THB to meet to discuss the Student Charter by the beginning of the w/c 7th May to make the appropriate changes as suggested by Council. The amended document should then be sent to all councillors for approval** | JH, EM and THB met and made appropriate changes to Charter, as suggested by Council. The amended Charter was then circulated to all Councillors. Student Council approved the Charter. | | **Action 07: JH to circulate the Poverty Commission report to Councillors and to send them the press release that NUS submitted for the report** | JH circulated the Poverty Commission Report with Councillors.  **Action 02: JS to circulate the Poverty Commission Report with new members of Student Council, following the result of the Autumn Elections.** | | **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** | **Action deferred to next Student Council.** | | | | |
| Approval Items | | | | |
|  | Approval of **2018-19\_001: People’s Vote** | | | |
|  | EM explained that he proposed a motion for Worcester Students’ Union to support the campaign for a ‘People’s Vote and a final say on Brexit’. Worcester SU is affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS). NUS voted to support the call for a People’s Vote at their National Conference 2018 and Worcester’s NUS Delegates supported this motion. As part of NUS’s support for the campaign, their annual national demonstration will align and form a part of the wider march for a People’s Vote on Saturday 20 October in London.  EM explained that leaving the EU would have a number of impacts on Worcester students including academic mobility (for example, the Erasmus+ scheme). Whether students wish to leave or remain, EM expressed that they should be able to have the opportunity to have a say on how we leave the EU.  If Student Council were to approve this motion, it would mean that Worcester Students’ Union would support the campaign for a People’s Vote and a final say on Brexit. Worcester SU is able to have an opinion on a subject that affects its members, and implications of Brexit in the Higher Education sector is something that would affect students at Worcester. If approved, EM would take the motion to the Trustee Board on Tuesday 2 October for their approval.  EM explained that he had already received three votes by proxy:  Vote by proxy no. 1 The member stated that there was a unanimous agreement among those students that they represent that Worcester SU should support NUS’s campaign for a People’s Vote. Therefore, this vote was in favour of the motion.  Vote by proxy no. 2 expressed the opinion that Worcester SU should not support the People’s Vote. The member stated their objection was based on the following reasons:   * It is undemocratic to request a second referendum and sets a dangerous precedent that voting can continue until it meets the will of the elite, or we ‘get it right’. I * We need to let the current deal play out before another vote is considered. * Brexit, however we feel about it as students, was the will of the people and the result of a democratic referendum. * There is a danger in assuming that people who voted to leave the EU were misinformed and uneducated * A new vote would act as a betrayal of those people who voted to leave, and subsequently won. * Democracy loses all credibility if it is so easily reversible.   Vote by proxy no. 3 expressed that they approve of the motion.  Vote by proxy no. 4 expressed that they approve of the motion.  Vote by proxy no. 5 expressed that they approve of the motion.  Vote to approve **2018-19\_001: People’s Vote** by proxy:  For: 4  Against: 1  EM then opened discussion. Council discussed educational impacts of Brexit, highlighting a potential that the numbers of European students at Worcester may begin to drop. There was also a concern that students may not be able to study abroad in the coming years as an implication of Brexit. THB added that the motion is not stating that all students of Worcester should agree with the People’s Vote; the motion is giving students the opportunity to get involved and support a national demonstration.  Vote to approve **2018-19\_001: People’s Vote** at meeting:  For: 4  Against: 0  Abstain: 2  Therefore, Council received 5 votes by proxy as well as 7 votes in the room. Therefore, Council received a quorate number of votes. The majority vote was in favour of the motion. **2018-19\_001: People’s Vote** was approved by Council. | | | |
| Any other Business | | | | |
|  | Any other business | | | |
|  | Councillors present did not have any further points of discussion. Meeting adjourned at 12:00. | | | |
|  | Date of next meeting: Thursday 18th October, 17:15, TBC | | | |

# Actions

**Action 01: JS to send out Student Charter to Student Council before the next meeting on 18 October.**

**Action 02: JS to circulate the Poverty Commission Report with new members of Student Council, following the result of the Autumn Elections.**

**Action 03: EM to provide Council with feedback around the Action from May 2018’s Student Council: JH to set a meeting with herself, AG and Kate Gynn (Academic and Welfare Advisor) to have a discussion around the implementation of mailboxes**