Student Council Minutes

Monday 9th December, 15:15-19:15 (EE G020)

**Agenda**

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|  | **Item** |
|  | Welcome and introductions |
|  | Apologies |
|  | Declarations of interest |
|  | Minutes of previous meeting |
|  | Matters arising |
| Approval Items | |
|  | Society Approvals   * Update on The Shout * African Caribbean Society * Crafting and Creations |
|  | City Campus as a standing agenda item |
|  | Policy Motion to Pilot a UWIC Student Council Rep |
|  | Graduation Charges |
| Reporting Items | |
|  | Update from Executive Committee |
|  | Update from the Board of Trustees |
|  | Update from Education Council |
|  | Officers’ reports – questions/comments |
| Information/Discussion Items | |
|  | Potential bring your own device policy |
| Any other Business | |
|  | Any other business |
|  | Date of next meeting: |

**Attendance**

**Councillors present:**

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| Student Council Chair | Katie Watts | KW |
| President | Harry Lonsdale | HL |
| Vice President Education | Meg Price | MP |
| Vice President Student Activities | Mike Harris | MH |
| International Students Officer | Samuel Kyei | SK |
| LGBTQ+ Officer | James Gould | JG |
| Sustainability Officer | Claudia Gutierrez | CG |
| General Interest Societies Rep | Danielle Jones | DJ |
| Postgraduate Rep | Afoma Obidinnu | AO |
| School of Psychology Rep | Janne Vollan Tollefsen | JVT |

**Also present:**

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| Student Engagement Manager | Tim Hewes-Belton | THB |
| Student Voice Assistant (minute taking) | Abbie Banner | AB |

**Apologies Received:**

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| Student Disability Officer | Nadine Baxter | NB |
| Women’s Officer | Alia Moorhouse | AM |
| Academic Societies Rep | Karl Stanfield | KS |
| BUCS Sports Clubs Rep | Sophie Davies | SD |
| Non-BUCS Sports Clubs Rep | Luke Quinlan | LQ |
| School of Education Rep | Kelly Chamberlain | KC |

**Not present:**

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| Welfare Officer | Amelia Price | AP |

**Minutes**

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| **1.** | **Welcome and introductions** |
|  | KW welcomed everyone to the last Student Council of the first Semester. |
| **2.** | **Apologies** |
|  | Apologies were received from Nadine Baxter, Kelly Chamberlain, Alia Moorhouse, Karl Stanfield, and Luke Quinlan. |
| **3.** | **Declarations of interest** |
|  | MH declared an interest in clubs and societies, so would be abstaining from voting on approval of clubs and societies.  MP and HL declared an interest in approval of their policy motion as the motion proposer and seconder, so would be abstaining from voting on this. |
| **4.** | **Minutes of previous meeting** |
|  | Vote to approve the minutes of the previous meeting:  For: 9  Against: 0  Abstain: 0  **The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.** |
| **5.** | **Matters arising** |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Action 01. **HL to update Council on Drink-Aware Nightlife Crew** | Meeting arranged with the relevant University staff to explore options. Will update when we have more news. | | Action 02. **HL to update Council on SU App** | HL met with IT department and the University has since bought the SU a guide on Guidebook that is now in development. | | Action 03. **HL to update council on Night Bus** | Discussions ongoing with University. HL will keep Council updated | | Action 04. **MH to look how we can encourage more societies to base more activities at City Campus** | Talks in progress on setting up a Business Society. We are hosting a societies’ social in February that will start at City Campus. | | Action 05. **THB to send exec summary of survey to AP** | Complete. | | Action 06. **THB to invite AP to next Wellbeing Working Group** | Complete and AP attended most recent SU Wellbeing Working Group meeting on 22/11/2019. | | Action 07. **MP to follow up on Women’s Network with Sarah Greer** (Deputy Vice Chancellor) | MP awaiting meeting with SG. More work will be undertaken in Semester 2.  **Carry over Action 07 to next Student Council.** | | Action 08. **MH to invite JG to TeamWorc** | Complete. | | Action 09. **MH to take issues to BUCS App to Regional BUCS meeting** | Complete. Update provided in AOB. | | Action 10. **MH to contact Akuma to discuss feedback** | Complete. Update provided in AOB. | |
| **6.** | **Society Approvals**   * **Update on The Shout** * **African and Caribbean Society** * **Crafting and Creations** |
|  | The Club and Society applications were circulated with all councillors so that they could make an informed decision.  **6.1 The Shout**  MH updated Student Council that The Shout have not yet completed their constitution, but that SU Staff are chasing this up and an update will be provided when a constitution is received.  **6.2 Crafting ’n’ Creations Society**  Short discussion around the membership fee at £10 potentially being high, but councillors felt this was justified as this would likely be spent on materials to provide to members.  Vote to approve Crafting ’n’ Creations Society  For: 8  Against: 0  Abstain: 1  The Crafting ‘n’ Creations Society were approved by Council.  **6.3 African and Caribbean Society**  Vote to approve African and Caribbean Society  For: 8  Against: 0  Abstain: 1  The African and Caribbean Society were approved by Council. |
| **7.** | **City Campus as a standing agenda item** |
|  | **7.1 MP’s proposal**  MP proposed that a new standing item should be added to the agenda for Student Council, to discuss City Campus. She explained that the student experience of City Campus is being discussed continuously in the SU and the University, and that adding an item would create the space and opportunity for discussion and feedback on this topic specifically.   * 1. **Discussion**   JG raised a point with regards to societies and clubs relating to city campus that can be discussed under this standing item in future meetings.  KW noted she has spoken to students based at City Campus, who are unaware of the SU and what we do, including final year students.  HL noted that this is something that is currently high on the Pro Vice Chancellor’s agenda.  **7.3** Vote to approve adding ‘City Campus’ as a standing item onto the Student Council Agenda:  For: 9  Against: 0  Abstain: 1 |
| **8.** | **Policy Motion to Pilot a UWIC Student Council Rep** |
|  | **8.1 Motion Proposal**  MP explained what UWIC is (University of Worcester International College) and that it is an embedded partner institution based within the University, but delivered by Holmes Education Group with around 50 students currently. This number is set to jump in the New Year with up to 300 students joining UWIC.  MP noted that the SU is undergoing a governance review, but that it is important for these students to have representation before and until the process is complete.  **8.2 Discussion**  CG agreed that UWIC students need representation, but questioned how the SU could influence UWIC if it is a partner institution or external in terms of lobbying for changes.  MP explained that although UWIC is an external partner, they are embedded within the institution and so regulations that apply to the University also apply to UWIC. Therefore, the SU is able to lobby the University and UWIC itself. SU staff and officers have also developed a good working relationship with UWIC staff, and sit on several of UWICs internal committees.  MP explained that this position on Student Council is mostly about ensuring that UWIC students have a voice in the SU  JG questioned if this should instead become part of the International Student Officer role remit. MP argued that the UWIC students have an entirely different experience to University of Worcester international students.  DJ asked for clarification on UWIC and what students are studying. MP explained they provide 6-12 month courses that act as a precursor for going onto to study an undergraduate or postgraduate degree with Worcester.  **8.3** Vote to approve the policy motion to pilot a UWIC Rep on Student Council  For: 7  Against: 0  Abstain: 2  The motion to pilot a UWIC Rep on Student Council was approved.  **Action 01: MP to oversee the implementation of the UWIC pilot rep and their co-option to Student Council.** |
| **9.** | **Graduation Charges** |
|  | **9.1** HL had done research on costs of Graduation at Universities across the UK and displayed the spreadsheet of this on screen. HL explained he wanted to get Student Council’s thoughts on this before the next University meeting on ‘Fees, Scholarships and Bursaries’.  **9.2** There was a discussion around the various costs associated with graduating. Points raised included:   * Worcester currently charges the following: £18 per guest ticket, £9 per person attending the live broadcast at the Arena, £8 for food per person. * We could lobby the university to keep costs low * Should we be lobbying the University or the Cathedral, HL could discuss with Registrar * Cost of broadcasting could instead be subsidised or absorbed by selling a DVD of graduation * Charging for aspects of graduation does not align with the University’s values, i.e. education and student experience vs money   **9.4** Vote for Student Council to mandate the President to lobby the University of Worcester to remove the cost of broadcasting and to explore options to reduce the other associated costs of graduating.  For: 8  Against: 0  Abstain: 1  Action 02: HL to prepare research paper to send to Fees, Scholarships and Bursaries Committee  HL left the meeting at 18:00. |
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| **10.** | **Update from Executive Committee** |
|  | MP explained that Executive Committee planned for 6th December did not go ahead as the meeting was not at quorate due to officers not turning up. MP reminded officers that it is really important to let AB know when you can or cannot attend meetings and to stick to this promise if officers have said they can attend. JG noted that he wanted to talk more about plans with the other officers, but was unable to do so as he was the only Part Time Officer to turn up. |
| **11.** | **Update from the Board of Trustees** |
|  | MH provided an update from the most recent Board of Trustees meeting, including a review of the Risk Register and Matrix of Delegated Responsibility. The Impact Report for 2018-19 was approved, alongside the Students’ Union’s accounts for the previous financial year. |
| **12.** | **Update from Education Council** |
|  | MP updated councillors that Education Council happened on Monday 2nd December, School Reps and Academic Society Chairs are invited to this. In this session, the Students’ Union’s Governance review was discussed, in which we got feedback from these students on the proposals for networks to be introduced alongside other changes. |
| **13.** | **Officers’ reports – questions/comments** |
|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Officer** | **Highlights** | **Comments** | | **HL** | New outdoor space, dart board up in Hangar, SU energy consumption, Walk & Talk campaign with chaplain. Night bus discussion ongoing. | DJ questioned outdoor space, MP explained this is the Wellbeing Garden outside the Hangar being developed. DJ noted close to smoking area, councillors thought not an issue. JG had an idea for rent-out picnic blankets. **Action 03. HL to talk to Matthew Birbeck (Hangar Manager) with regards to getting rentable picnic blankets.** | | **MP** | PGR academic representation discussions ongoing. Met with registrar to discuss online visibility of reps and successful discussion. Inclusive assessment policy. | No comments. | | **MH** | Geek Week, Team Worc TV episodes, Inclusivity Rep and Chair catch up meetings with great feedback, BUCS regional meeting, discussions with Student Disability Officer NB about disability sports provision. Varsity begins the day after BUCS ends in 2020, creates difficult timing. Jack Moore, the new Student Engagement Coordinator started in his role today. | **Action 04. MH to ensure PTOs have a space at the Refreshers events.** | | **SK** | Oxford International Students trip on 23rd November was really successful, met with Intl Experience team again to organise Christmas Catch-Up on 17th December. | CG commended SK for his efforts and hard work in his role. MP noted an issue with Nursing students. **Action 05. MP to meet with SK to inform and update each other on progress with international student issues.** | | **JG** | Met with MH, recorded World AIDS Day video with HL, supported well attended LGBTQ+ Society Transgender Social, and WAD Balloon Fundraiser. Looking into Allyship, transferring the LGB staff training to also be available to students to become ‘Allies’.  **Action 04. All Councillors to consider JG’s question below and send ideas to him via email ASAP /before end of this term. (What do you feel discourages people outside of the LGBTQ+ community from engaging with our open events? And how do you think this can be addressed?)** |  | | **NB** | Ongoing discussions around disability sport with MH and Lyndsey in SU. Issues with the lift in Cotswold Suite resolved. In contact with the Chair of BSL Society (British Sign Language) planning to meet. | MH updated that he and NB had met to discuss current disability sport offering | | **CG** | No report received. Verbal update given:  Invited to the University’s Sustainability Strategy Group. Working on Reusable Lunch Box, will talk to Katy Boom about this. | **Action 06. HL to invite Katy Boom (Director of Sustainability at UoW) to a fair in Refreshers.** MH noted that he had a potential project to work on with CG. **Action 07. MH to meet with CG with regards to Clubs and Societies’ involvement in Go Green Week at University.** | | **AP** | No report received |  | | **AM** | No report received |  |   THB noted that it is really important for all Officers to submit their reports to AB on time, as we will not be accepting verbal reports at future meetings. |
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| **14.** | **Potential bring your own device policy** |
|  | **14.1** MP updated Student Council on a potential University “bring your own device” policy for students, where technological advances would mean it would be beneficial to have a device that would enable students to take part in new teaching methodologies. This has stemmed from university meetings and discussions around Digital Learning and Teaching software, which could aid learning in lectures etc. and would lead to the University developing the curriculum around these tools. This would require adjustments from students and staff.  **14.2** There was a discussion around this potential policy, points raised included:   * On selected courses all student currently get given an iPad when they begin, including Psychology and Law   + MP noted this is unlikely to be rolled out across all students * MH noted this is an issue of inclusion due to cost of buying a device and replacing broken ones * Is the infrastructure for this in place? i.e. number of plug sockets required in lecture theatres and seminar rooms * Broadens the ways of learning in the classroom * Support is available for those who may not be able to afford aspects of student life, through the Access to Learning Fund, as well as University’s Access to Participation Plan for those who are less well-off, socio-economically * JVT noted Psychology are given a tablet in 1st year with the relevant apps pre-installed. Although no intention of buying one previously, turned out to be a very useful piece of equipment throughout degree * Thoughts that there is no justification for providing tablets to some courses and not others, should be based on socio-economic background. * Technology enhanced learning advances and preps students for their careers ahead. * How do you define Socio-Economic Status or background? Different measurements discussed, e.g. Polar Quintile, postcode, student loan company data, etc. * Are the lecturers and staff trained on using the software and equipment, as not much use introducing new things if staff do not have digital capabilities. * Sharing devices between students – have a pool of tablets which can be booked out by students or staff for sessions where one is required * This creates potential issues around data sharing and GDPR. |
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| **15.** | **Any other business** |
|  | **15.1** **Akuma and BUCS App**  MH passed on a report from Sophie Davies (BUCS Sports Clubs Rep) for AOB. This noted that both Akuma and the BUCS App issues raised in previous Council have been resolved. MH noted there is a culture of expecting an online shop to buy from and that Akuma was looking at developing one. MH also noted that the recent BUCS App update has led to improvements, after which no negative feedback has been received from students.  **15.2 Car Parking**  DJ raised an issue around car parking, whereby the signs were out on campus to say “No parking spaces left, please use Riverside Campus” when in fact there were spaces available. Could be more of an issue for students with disability or access requirements.  A lengthy discussion around car parking ensued. MP questioned if the number of disabled parking spaces are appropriate for the number of students, staff or visitors that may require these. Cost of parking permits was discussed, sustainability and public health elements of transport and parking issues were also discussed.  CG noted that Worcester is very walkable for most students who live within proximity of the campus, subject to access requirements. MP questioned if this is something we should also be pushing to staff, there was a consensus among councillors that staff should be held accountable to the same degree as students.  **15.3 Events**  SK encouraged all to come along to the Christmas Catch Up on Friday 17th December 2-5pm in The Hangar ran by International Experience Team in collaboration with the International Officer.  CG encouraged all to come along to the Chinese New Year Celebration on 24th January and to look out for details on the University social media.  **15.4 Event Promotion**  CG encouraged all councillors to contact her if they would like student events to be promoted through the University social media channels, as she may be able to help through her new part-time role in the University’s Communications Office. |
| **16.** | **Date of next meeting** |
|  | Monday 27th January, 17:15-19:15 (EE G020) |

**Matters Arising**

Actions carried forward from 12/11/2019

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| **Action 01. MP to follow up on Women’s Network with Sarah Greer.** |

Actions from 09/12/2019

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| **Action 01: MP to oversee the implementation of the UWIC pilot rep and their co-option to Student Council.**  **Action 02: HL to prepare research paper to send to Fees, Scholarships and Bursaries Committee**  **Action 03. HL to talk to Matt (Hangar Manager) with regards to JG’s idea of having picnic blankets to rent out from the SU.** |
| **Action 04. MH to ensure PTOs have a space at the Refreshers events.** |
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